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Eastleigh end season with loss

Match report on page 6

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R. STOKES (83 min)

THIS IS the story that the club have been waiting to tell for years. Brighton, the friendly club from the South Coast, have visited Wembley for the first time and now they will go home with the FA Cup.

What a wonderful name it is for a club, and

1976 FA Cup final Pink reprinted in full inside



Saints boss: We might not be Leicester, but we can make Champions League **SEE PAGE 3**



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SAINTS SPOTLIGHT



Top-four finish for Saints is 'realistic'

Koeman says flourishing Foxes will not add more pressure on team

RONALD Koeman has insisted that Leicester's success this season does not increase the pressure for further progress at Saints, but believes a top-four finish can still be achieved in the near future.

Up until this season it was almost unthinkable that a club from outside the traditional top four or five would break into the Champions League spots, let alone win the title.

However, Leicester have given hope to clubs across the country, with proof you can compete despite far smaller financial resources.

Their story is a one-off though, and Koeman feels it shouldn't be used as a yardstick for other clubs like Saints.

He said: "We have enough pressure in Southampton because what we showed last year already with Pochettino in the first season and also this season we have shown we are a stable club and can fight for more than the middle of the table.

"But it is difficult because everyone knows it has to be perfect to win the title in the Premier League.

"You need no European football, no injuries in important players, need the big teams to struggle a little bit and that happened this year but it doesn't happen every season."

Koeman does though believe talk of a potential top-four finish in the future is realistic for Saints.

"It is more normal and an achievement for a club like Southampton," he insisted.

Koeman thinks Saints need to win all of their three remaining games – against Man City at St Mary's this weekend, and then away to Tottenham and at home to Crystal Palace – to qualify for Europe this season.

However, he is adamant it has been a good campaign no matter whether they make it or not.

"Frustrated, not," he said of this season. "Because we have made several mistakes in our away games that we need three wins out of Man City home, Tottenham away and Crystal Palace home and that is difficult. It is possible though.



Graziano Pelle celebrates after scoring against Newcastle. Could he be putting the goals away against Europe's best?

"If we finish on a good way and finishing after the last game against Crystal Palace at home then we can be proud again about this second season.

"We had some good football, some good wins at home.

"Maybe we have lost too many points away from home but we have some big games still to play, the first

this Sunday against Manchester City.

"It's good to show that we still are strong and we show the spirit and belief to finish on a good way."

Koeman hopes for more cups

RONALD Koeman is hoping it won't be another 40 years before Saints are celebrating a major piece of silverware.

The Saints boss is set to meet the 1976 FA Cup winning squad at St Mary's on Sunday as they celebrate the 40th anniversary of the greatest day in the club's history.

It is somewhat of a surprise that a club of Saints' stature has not won a major trophy since, and something Koeman is acutely aware of.

"It's important because it's history for the club, and of course what we like to do is also one time win a title like a cup," he insisted.

"We didn't still so far and maybe next season we get a little bit more luck in the draws in the cup and we can achieve something special for the club what they did 40 years ago.

"It's very nice for the club, the people and the fans because they make history.

"People and players who make history are always part of the club."

Silva out for Saints clash

MANCHESTER City will be without playmaker David Silva for the next two to three weeks with the hamstring injury suffered in the midweek Champions League clash with Real Madrid.

That rules the Spaniard, pictured, out of this Sunday's Barclays Premier League trip to Southampton as well as next Wednesday's semi-final second leg against Real at the Bernabeu.

Midfielder Yaya Toure is back in training after a thigh injury but will not feature this weekend while

forward Samir Nasri has recovered from a muscle problem and will be in the squad at St Mary's.

Provisional squad: Hart, Caballero, Zabaleta, Sagna, Kompany, Otamendi, Mangala, Demichelis, Kolarov, Clichy, Fernando, Fernandinho, Delph, Nasri, De Bruyne, Sterling, Navas, Aguero, Iheanacho, Bony.



SAINTS SPOTLIGHT



Koeman excited for a Pep talk next season

But Saints boss says Pellegrini is 'very respectful'

RONALD Koeman is looking forward to meeting up with old friend Pep Guardiola when Saints take on Manchester City next season, but has admitted his respect for current Blues boss Manuel Pellegrini.

Koeman played alongside Guardiola at Barcelona, and the pair forged a strong bond.

They remain friends and will come head-to-head as managers when Saints face City in the top flight next season when the Spaniard has taken over from Pellegrini.

Koeman said: "Yes, very good friends. I didn't coach him, I just coached him on the pitch.

"I played behind him on the pitch. He was young and he needed to know the right directions.

"It will be nice because we know each other very well and it is always nice to meet one of your friends when you play against him.

"If you analyse how he is and was coaching Barcelona and how he tried to play football with Bayern Munich I think maybe they changed the way they were playing but that is in detail."

City visit St Mary's this weekend with Pellegrini still in charge, and City in the semi-finals of the Champions League with a second leg tie at Real Madrid to come next week.

Koeman has great respect for his Chilean counterpart, who has handled his upcoming departure with incredible grace, and said: "To know exactly you need to see how that manager is working in his team and his club but from outside I think he is a very respectful manager.

"He was coaching big teams like Real Madrid and he has been the manager in City in the past couple of years and has been successful – maybe he can win the Champions League.

"I think he is a manager who I like as a football player.

"He is always really respectful, never shouting, he's trying to play good football with his team which is difficult.

"He's changed a lot and there is a lot of pressure but I think he is one of the best coaches in Europe.

"In my opinion he is a very respectful manager."



Manchester City's next manager Pep Guardiola and, inset, his friend and Saints boss Ronald Koeman

He continued: "I don't see him in a dressing room, I don't see him in meetings before the game but what I see is from the distance.

"What I see when we play City how he is trying to give his team the

right direction and I think he is very good."

Pellegrini is facing the possibility of winning the Champions League but still getting sacked, and Koeman shrugged: "It's the reality in football

that they made that decision. I don't know why but it's football and it hasn't been the first time.

"It's the future of the club and the people involved to make those kind of decisions."

Schedule frustration for City

MANCHESTER City boss Manuel Pellegrini is incredulous over why his team have to play three days before Wednesday's Champions League semi-final at Real Madrid.

Pellegrini believes the scheduling of his side's Barclays Premier League game at Southampton at 4.30pm on Sunday hampers their hopes of reaching the final of Europe's leading club competition.

Real will have four days to prepare for the clash at the Bernabeu after their La Liga game at Real Sociedad on Saturday and Pellegrini thinks City's game should have been brought forward to correspond.

The club made inquiries as to whether that was possible, but it is understood an official request was not submitted as it was felt it would be unlikely to succeed for a televised fixture.

"For me it is unbelievable," said Pellegrini, whose side will have all to play for in Spain after a goalless draw in the first leg at the Etihad Stadium. "If you see other leagues, including Italy, the



City's Manuel Pellegrini

teams that play Champions League play their domestic games on a Friday.

"We are representing England and I think it's important not to give any advantage to the other team."

It is the second time this season City have been frustrated by fixture scheduling ahead of a European game.

The first leg of their last-16 tie at Dynamo Kiev came three days after their FA Cup fifth-round clash at Chelsea.

The Chilean said: "In the Premier League, I don't understand why, when having so many games, and they all have the same interest, we can't play one day before to have 24 hours (more rest).

"We knew we had to play eight games in 30 days. It is a lot of games for this squad.

"But the best way to make a good game on Wednesday is to win on Sunday and have trust in the performance of different players."

Everton 2 Cherries 1

Rare Toffees win delivers Cherries' third straight loss

Growing opposition mounts in a rare victory at home

LEFT-BACK Leighton Baines' first goal since November 2014 secured Everton's first home league victory since early February but it was not enough to prevent growing opposition to Roberto Martinez's continued reign as manager.

A plane flying the banner 'Roberto Must Go' was followed by a handful of fans in the Gwladys Street End holding up 'Martinez Out' signs and chanting 'Get out of our club' at the end of the 2-1 win.

Only five home league wins in the last 12 months tells its own story and it is unlikely Baines' goal, after Marc Pugh had cancelled out Tom Cleverley's strike inside the opening 10 minutes, will ease the pressure.

Despite his easy-going appearance, Martinez has a stubborn streak and if his stint at Goodison Park is coming to an end he is determined to go out on his own terms.

The decision to give Oumar Niasse a Premier League debut ahead of 25-goal leading scorer Romelu Lukaku was a bold one which smacked of sticking two fingers up at his critics.

Prior to his full debut, Niasse had played just 29 minutes of football since December 10, his last match for Lokomotiv Moscow before a £13.5 million January move to Goodison Park.

Just a fortnight ago, Martinez had said it would be a "bonus" if he played again for them this season because of his fitness levels but on this evidence he should change that assessment to "unthinkable" as he looked well off the pace.

Martinez's decision to recall goalkeeper Tim Howard, who had not played since January 24, and leaves for Colorado Rapids in the summer, for his penultimate Goodison farewell, also did not impress fans.

The American, at least, performed well enough although Pugh's ninth-minute equaliser caught enough of his body before creeping over the line to raise questions among his detractors.

It was no surprise the visitors pegged Everton back, or did it so quickly, as confidence at home has been fragile and even Cleverley's strike two minutes earlier – incredibly from Ross Barkley's first assist of 2016 – failed to settle nerves.



Everton's Matthew Pennington (left) and Bournemouth's Matt Ritchie battle for the ball.



Everton's Leighton Baines celebrates scoring his side's second goal of the game.

The midfielder's finish was a smart one but so was Pugh's, who swept home Callum Wilson's cross despite Everton complaining the striker had nudged 21-year-old Matthew Pennington, making his Premier League debut, in the back in winning the ball out wide.

Goodison's atmosphere was less toxic than expected but still surreal as 20 minutes in, Bournemouth fans sang 'Sacked in the morning' to Martinez and pockets of the home crowd applauded.

A minute before half-time, Niasse's audacious backheel drifted wide of the far post and, somewhat coincidentally considering his performance, moments later the protest plane flew overhead.

Just when it seemed the day could not get any more odd the 35-year-old, Tony Hibbert replaced Muhamed Besic at half-time.

Josh King threatened with two efforts but the hosts started to look more threatening.

That was partly because the failed

Niasse experiment was ended on the hour with Lukaku sent on to add some firepower.

However, it was winger Aaron Lennon who provided the breakthrough as his run and cross in the 64th minute was rammed home at the far post by Baines.

Bournemouth substitute Benik Afobe had two efforts to level things up, the first blocked by Pennington, and such has been their form at home, it was a surprise Everton did not concede before the end.

Magpies on move

NEWCASTLE 1 CRYSTAL PALACE 0

ANDROS Townsend's stunning free-kick dragged Newcastle out of the Barclays Premier League relegation zone as Rafael Benitez's rescue mission gathered pace with a 1-0 win over Crystal Palace.

The £12 million January signing struck with 58 minutes gone – his third goal in five games – to give the home side a precious lead, but it took a 70th-minute penalty saved by Karl Darlow to deny Magpies old boy Yohan Cabaye an equaliser.

Victory, coupled with Sunderland's draw at Stoke, eased Newcastle out of the bottom three ahead of Norwich's trip to Arsenal and left the bulk of a crowd of 52,107 dreaming of a great escape with just two games remaining.

The visitors targeted makeshift right-back Vurnon Anita from the first whistle with Yannick Bolasie employed as tormentor in chief, and Chancel Mbemba's efforts to help out his team-mate resulted in an early booking.

Jason Puncheon volleyed across goal after meeting Pape Souare's eight-minute cross and it took a fine challenge by Jamaal Lascelles to deny Connor Wickham a clear run at goal three minutes later.

Wijnaldum went close five minutes after the restart when he turned past Cabaye from Mbemba's pass, but saw his shot blocked by Damien Delaney, and Hennessey fielded Townsend's 55th-minute effort with little difficulty.

But the former Tottenham midfielder broke the deadlock in style three minutes later when, after being fouled by Scott Dann, he curled a superb free-kick past Hennessey.

Palace fought for a way back as an increasingly nervous Newcastle dropped deeper in an attempt to preserve their lead, and the Eagles got their chance when they were awarded a penalty for handball by Moussa Sissoko as he challenged Scott Dann with 20 minutes remaining.

However, Darlow dived to his left to keep out Cabaye's effort as St James' breathed a collective sigh of relief.



Andros Townsend celebrates his goal

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Woking 2 Eastleigh 1

Heartbreak for Spitfires as final game ends in defeat

EASTLEIGH'S season ended in heartbreak as they lost their final game of a rollercoaster National League campaign 2-1 at Woking.

On an afternoon when everything went against them, play-off rivals Braintree and Tranmere both won leaving the Spitfires to settle for a disappointing seventh placed finish.

Braintree – 3-0 winners over Altrincham – claimed fifth spot, leaving Eastleigh and Tranmere to do it all again next season, *writes Wendy Gee.*

Eastleigh were dealt another pre match blow when Jamie Turley (knee) joined James Constable, Luke Coulson and Andy Drury on the injury list for this must-win game.

Ross Lafayette started up front alongside Matt Tubbs having returned this week from four months on loan at Aldershot.

Woking had the first glimmer of a chance five minutes in when their player of the season John Goddard cut inside and fired wide of Ross Flitney's right-hand post.

The Spitfires raised their game and, after Matty Fanimo's blocked shot had gone out for a corner, the Spitfires had the ball in the net through Matt Tubbs. It would have been the Portsmouth loanee's first goal from open play since arriving in early February but, typically of his luck in an Eastleigh shirt, the linesman's flag was up.

The visitors' frustration grew when the flat was raised again as Tubbs burst rough, but there was worse, far worse, to come for the Spitfires who, from a position of relative comfort, suddenly found themselves two goals down.

Woking's first, on 13 minutes, was a total disaster for Chris Todd's men as a driven cross by former Havant left-back Chris Arthur eluded everyone, including Flitney before being bundled home by Keiron Murtagh amid a mad scramble on the line.

With the game invitingly open, the Cards doubled their advantage less than three minutes later as the game swung quickly from one end to the other.

Jai Reason's penalty appeal for handball went unheeded, Woking broke and, Giuseppe Sole had gone down under Michael Green's challenge, there was another unsightly mess in the Eastleigh defence.

It was all too easy for the Cards as Matthew Robinson crossed from the right, and Goddard swept the ball home.

Just when it looked as if the afternoon couldn't get any worse for the Spitfires, news filtered through that their two rivals for the fourth and last play-off spots, Braintree and Tranmere, were both winning.

Flitney's sharp reaction prevented Sole getting a third for Woking on 28 minutes, while both Murtagh and Goddard shot narrowly wide before half-time.

Matt Tubbs scored Eastleigh's only goal.



In between, the chances were all Eastleigh's, but Lafayette's cleverly worked shot was held by keeper Jake Cole, Tubbs' close range effort from Yemi Odubade's cross was blocked at point-blank range and Green's delivery into the six-yard box was scrambled clear.

Half-time: Woking 2 Eastleigh 0
Eastleigh went 3-4-3 after the break with skipper and defender Paul Reid making way for winger Lee Cook.

Cook's first contribution was a deep delivery to the back stick but the sliding Odubade could not keep his shot

down.

With 58 minutes gone, Todd made another change with Jack Midson taking over wide right duties from Fanimo.

As the hectic end to end action continued, Midson headed over and Tubbs flung himself at another Cook cross, but just failed to connect.

Woking, though, looked menacing every time they burst forward and there was relief for the yellow shirted visitors when Sole's 66 minutes 'goal' was ruled off-side.

Eastleigh's players were not to

know it but, by the time they mustered a 74th minute reply, Braintree has strengthened their grip on fifth spot with another goal against lowly Altrincham.

It was Tubbs who scored it, getting the final connection on a cracking Payne strike from the right edge of the area to divert the ball past Cole.

There were chances at both ends in a barnstorming finish with scrambles at both ends and Flitney pulling off a smart save to deny Woking sub Danny Carr.

Important points near drop

STOKE 1 SUNDERLAND 1

JERMAIN Defoe scored an injury-time penalty to earn Sunderland a potentially priceless point at Stoke.

The Potters looked on course for victory after Marko Arnautovic gave them the lead five minutes into the second half but Defoe made it 1-1 having won the spot-kick himself.

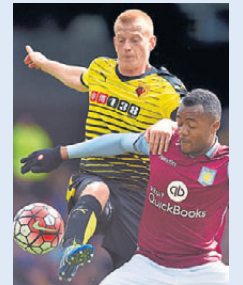
Newcastle's victory over Crystal Palace meant the draw was not enough to prevent Sunderland dropping back into the bottom three but it was more than they looked like getting for 90 minutes.

Mark Hughes would have been pleased with Stoke's response to conceding four goals in each of their last three games but their winless run extended to five matches.

WATFORD 3 ASTON VILLA 2

TROY Deeney grabbed two late goals to condemn Aston Villa to a club-record 11th straight defeat.

Deeney, a boyhood Birmingham fan, stuck the knife into the team he loves to score against more than any other as Watford ran out 3-2 winners.



Watford's Ben Watson (left) and Aston Villa's Jordan Ayew

Relegated Villa were leading with just five seconds of normal time remaining thanks to goals from Ciaran Clark and Jordan Ayew, either side of Almen Abdi's free-kick.

But the beleaguered midlanders, who had Aly Cissokho sent off with 15 minutes left, could not hold out as Deeney's double piled on the agony.

WEST BROM 0 WEST HAM 3

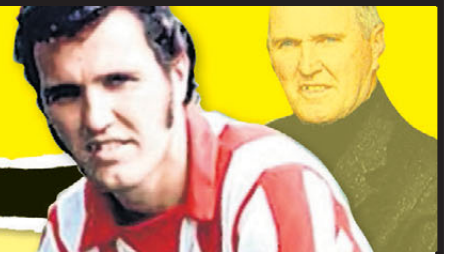
WEST Ham sent out a European warning as they powered into fifth with an impressive win at West Brom. Mark Noble's double and Cheikhou Kouyate's strike gave the Hammers a 3-0 victory, which sent them above Manchester United on goal difference in the Barclays Premier League.

United will retake fifth spot if they avoid defeat against champions-elect Leicester on Sunday but the Hammers kept up the pressure and they have lost just once in their last 13 games in all competitions.

They face United in their final game at Upton Park on May 10, in what is set to become a winner-takes-all clash.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



Arsenal need to spend – and make progress

THINGS looked bright for the Gunners in the summer as goalkeeper Petr Cech was signed from Chelsea for a bargain £11m, but as the season went on, fans and pundits alike began to criticise Wenger's decision not to strengthen in any other areas.

Key players such as Cazorla, Wilshere, Rosicky, Alexis and Oxlade-Chamberlain all suffered injuries ruling them out for large parts of the campaign. Injuries are a part of football, but it seems to me that Arsenal are the victim of too many occasions.

According to injuryleague.com, Arsenal players have been injured for a total of 227 weeks between them this season. Since August 2002, Arsenal have endured 989 injuries, more than any other club.

Few can say that Arsenal lack the quality to be champions. A team cannot get much better than the likes of Mesut Ozil, Alexis Sanchez and Santi Cazorla.

But the players often do not seem to play to their full potential.

The squad plays in a stadium filled with corporate businessmen every week as the passionate fans are priced out of going to the games by absurd ticket prices. The players lack the motivation to be champions.

That said, it is surely not the fans' fault that Arsenal have faltered and there is one man on everybody's mind. Arsene Wenger.

Wenger has done wonders for the club; there is absolutely no denying it. Six FA cups, three Premier League titles, including a whole season unbeaten, gives Wenger a legendary status in North London.

Wenger changed Arsenal from being a "boring club" to one that plays beautiful football and is admired all around the world. But times have changed.

Arsenal fans are about to witness their worst nightmare and finish behind arch rivals Tottenham Hotspur for the first time in 20 years. Spurs could rub salt in the wounds of the Gunners by perhaps winning the title this season, too.

Wenger changed the dynamics of Arsenal football club.

The man was completely unknown before joining the club in 1996.

They built a new stadium and a new training ground under Wenger and it would have been impossible without him. But Wenger's style seems to be outdated. Arsenal fans are fed up with top four finishes and are eager for something more and perhaps something new.

"Fourth place is not a trophy" is a famous Arsenal fan saying, aimed towards Arsene Wenger. In my opinion, it is completely understandable to feel the frustration of the fans and to want change after so many years



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is under pressure again after another mediocre season

of not moving forward.

Leicester in one year have transformed themselves from relegation strugglers to Premier League title challengers. Wenger has been unable to jump from 4th to 1st in the past 12 years.

We cannot disrespect the man who has done so much for the club but perhaps it is time for Wenger to move on himself and leave the club as a legend.

Banners with the words "Arsene, thanks for the memories but it's time to say goodbye" have been seen many times in the Arsenal away end over the past few seasons.

Arsenal are renowned for being stubborn in the transfer market and rarely spending

the money that the likes of Manchester City and Chelsea do every season. It is ironic that Walcott and Giroud earn hundreds of thousands each week because their performances are often poor.

Wenger has said that he "likes to honour his contract" and therefore looks as though he will be staying at Arsenal for another year.

Arsenal must sign a leader this summer, someone who can lift the team and can inspire the rest of the squad.

They desperately need a new centre back as both Mertesacker and Gabriel have not looked good enough for a team that should be competing for the title.

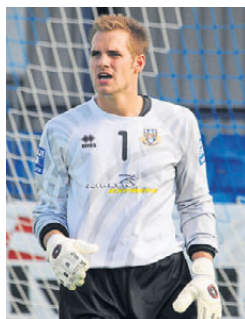
The Gunners also need one or two new midfielders with some real flair and passion.

And finally, without a doubt, they need a new striker as Walcott and Giroud are simply not good enough and Welbeck's record is not even close to that of Harry Kane, Jamie Vardy or Sergio Aguero.

It is unlikely that global stars will want to join Arsenal during such difficult times but if they can lure the likes of Aubameyang to the Emirates, next season could be very different.

Arsenal must spend this summer and forget this terrible season and begin to move on to better things.

Non league FOOTBALL



Gareth Barfoot

Barfoot to leave champions Salisbury

FORMER AFC Totton and Eastleigh goalkeeper Gareth Barfoot is set to leave promoted Sydenhams Premier Division champions Salisbury at the end of the season.

Barfoot, who missed much of the latter part of the campaign injured, cannot do the increased travelling involved at Southern League level.

Manager Steve Claridge hopes to keep Charlie Searle who proved such an excellent stand-in for Barfoot on a dual registration from Havant & Waterlooville, but it will depend on the wishes of his parent club.

Already signed up or agreeing to re-sign for next season are George Colson, Eddie Perrett, Callum Hart, Calum Brockway, Steve Walker, Jack Vallis, Robbie Matthews, Claudio Herbert, Sam Roberts, Brandon Mundy, Adam Kelly, Dan Demkiv, Danny Young and Kane O'Keefe.

Those currently discussing deals are Tom Whelan, Elliot Wheeler, Sam Wilson, Ashley Jarvis, Taurean Roberts, Nathan Ball and ex-Saint Jamie White.

With the Whites due to launch an under-21 side in the Wyvern Combination League, Reece Rusher and Ashton Leigh are expected to remain with more regular football on offer. Charlie Blake is also likely to sign playing forms and help with first-team physio duties.

It leaves Claridge looking for just "four or five" new recruits for next season as the Whites prepare for life at Step 4 level – probably alongside the likes of Winchester City and AFC Totton.

Fixtures this week

Monday, May 2
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
 Premier Division play-off final: Hungerford v Leamington.
 Southern One South & West play-off final: Banbury v Taunton.
 Southern One Central play-off final: St Ives v AFC Rushden & Diamonds.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE CUP FINAL
 Newport IoW v Team Solent (at Salisbury FC, 3.00pm)
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
 PEHPL Combination Cup Final: Hamble Club Res v Liss Athletic Res (10.30am at AFC Portchester)
 PEHPL Senior Cup Final: Hamble Club v Liss Athletic (2.30pm at AFC Portchester)

Tuesday, May 3
RUSSELL COTES CUP FINAL
 AFC Portchester v Gosport Borough (at AFC Portchester)
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Fareham Town v Salisbury, Horndean v Brockenhurst.
 Division One: Totton & Eling v Ringwood Town.
ANDOVER OPEN CUP FINAL
 Otterbourne v South Wonston Swifts.

Wednesday, May 4
ISLE OF WIGHT GOLD CUP
 Semi-final: Newport IoW v Whitecroft & Barton Sports (at Cowes Sports FC)
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Fawley AFC v Team Solent
SALISBURY HOSPITALS CUP
 Shaftesbury v Amesbury Town.

Thursday, May 5
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Fareham Town v Blackfield & Langley, Moneyfields v Horndean.
NORTH HANTS SENIOR CUP FINAL
 Whitchurch Utd v Tadley Calleva (at Basingstoke Town FC)

Saturday, May 7
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
 Premier Division: Fareham Town v Verwood, Horndean v AFC Portchester, Salisbury v Newport IoW.
 Division One: Tadley Calleva v East Cowes, Hythe & Dibden v Andover New Street, Pewsey Vale v Portland Utd.
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE
 Senior Division: Infinity v Bush Hill, Otterbourne v Liss Athletic.

Team Solent relishing final despite exhausting fixtures

Postponed games jammed into last part of the season

JAMES Taylor's Team Solent side are relishing the challenge of Monday's Sydenhams League Cup final at Salisbury's Raymond McEnhill stadium (3pm).

The manager's only concern is that both sets of players will be too weary to make the most of the big occasion having waded through an exhausting backlog of fixtures, *writes Wendy Gee.*

With wet weather once again playing havoc during the winter months, Team Solent – and Monday's opponents Newport IoW – will have crammed four league games into eight days leading up to the final.

And in Taylor's opinion, something urgently needs to be done to prevent clubs being overwhelmed with fixtures during the latter stages of the season.

Having powered their way up the Sydenhams Premier table, Solent have stuttered a bit of late because of injuries and the need to rest some of their key players.

"We've had too many fixtures lately to be able to play everyone in every game," said Taylor. "We've just had to do the best we can to get through to Monday in the best shape possible."

"It seems that nearly everyone is playing too much football at the moment and I don't understand why."

"We had quite a few free midweeks in August, September and October and if more fixtures had been arranged then, we could have got ahead of schedule and not had this problem at the end of the season."

"It's a hell of a lot of football to be playing. We'll have played 57 games this season – plus university games – and the amount of fixtures clubs have had to play over the last three weeks cannot be right."

"Players have to work and our young university lads have lots to do other than play football."



Team Solent celebrate their Southampton Senior Cup Final at St Mary's

"As a university side, it won't do us any favours playing more games at the start of the season because we don't get some of the players back until late September/October, but playing four games a week at this time of year is a bit ridiculous. It's a health and safety issue and something needs to be done about it."

The strain has already taken its toll on Team Solent injury-wise with

Jamel Wiseman (hamstring), Matt Sheedy (ankle) and Martin Johnson (groin) almost certainly missing Monday's final, while defender Ellis White is struggling with a thigh strain.

"Ellis is touch and go and we've got quite a few others carrying knocks," said Taylor.

Despite his reservations, Taylor is relishing the challenge of trying to build on Solent's successful defence

of the Southampton Senior Cup.

The Students' ability to raise their game on the big night saw Blackfield & Langley ruthlessly blown away 5-0 at St Mary's.

"The lads are really looking forward to Monday," said the boss. "It's the thought of the final that's kept us going."

Admission for the cup final is £7 adults and £4 seniors/under-16s (including match programme).

Havant & Waterlooville 1 Weston-Super-Mare 1

Hawks relegated on goal difference after draw

Hayter's first-half goal not enough

HAVANT & Waterlooville have been relegated from National League South, alongside Hampshire rivals Basingstoke Town, whose fate was sealed sometime ago.

They had to win their final match of the season against Weston-Super-Mare to ensure finishing above St Alban's City and Margate.

But despite taking a first-half lead through former Cherries striker James Hayter, they ended up drawing 1-1 in front of an anxious West Leigh Park crowd, *writes Mike Vimpany*.

The Hawks finished the season on 47 points – the same as Margate, whose final goal difference was just one better than Havant.

Margate lost their last game, 2-0 to Bath City at Twerton Park, while St Alban's – who somewhat significantly thrashed Havant 6-0 a fortnight ago – thumped Dartford 4-0.

The results conspired to make it a miserable afternoon for the Hawks, who were in the promotion play-offs 12 months ago and are now relegated for the first time in their history.

For the opening 45 minutes there was little hint that the afternoon – and season – would turn sour.

Havant were ahead in the 17th minute and looked comfortable at the break.

Hayter's predatory header inside the six-yard box from a precision cross by Ben Swallow earned the former AFC Bournemouth man his 11th goal of the season – and gave Hawks a crucial lead.

It was vital Havant clung on to that advantage and early in the second half they got a chance to double it – and put the game to bed.

Brian Stock got into a great position on the edge of the Weston box, but



James Hayter scored Havant & Waterlooville's only goal.

goalkeeper Luke Purnell was quick off his line and the chance was gone.

It was to be the first of two significant moments in the second period that would shape Havant's destiny.

Weston pushed more players forward, leaving Hawks struggling in centre-field and upped their game by 50 per cent, with the busy Tristan

Plummer causing problems.

But it was a mistake by one-time Saints player Matt Patterson 17 minutes from the end which led to the WSM equaliser which would ultimately send Havant down.

Patterson lost possession to full-back Sekani Simpson out on the far Weston right and when the ball was

worked in, the visitors equalised.

Jamie Edge shot from the edge of the box and Scott Wilson came in on the blind side to beat Ryan Young and make it 1-1.

Havant & Waterlooville had to score a second – but all they could manage were two late unrewarded corners.

RESULTS

Saturday, 30 April, 2016
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH

Bath City 2 Margate 0
Chelmsford City 0 Basingstoke Town 2
Ebbsfleet 4 Eastbourne Borough 2
Gosport Borough 2 Hayes & Yeading 5
Havant & Waterlooville 1 Weston-Super-Mare 1
Hemel Hempstead Town 0 Whitehawk 3
Maidenhead 2 Concord Rangers 2
Maidstone 1 Bishops Cleeve 1
Oxford City 0 Sutton 1
St Albans 4 Dartford 0
Truro 1 Wealdstone 2

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Championship match final:
Cinderford Town 2 Kings Langley 0

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division

AFC Portchester 4 Salisbury 1
Alresford 1 Newport IOW 6
Andover 5 Fareham 0
Brockenhurst 5 Cowes Sports 2
Fawley AFC 0 Sholing 2
Hamworthy United 3 Follard Sports 2
Hordean 2 Bemerton HH 2
Team Solent 9 Bourne-mouth Poppies 1
Verwood 1 Lymington Town 0
Whitchurch 3 Blackfield & Langley 4
Division One
Alton 2 Christchurch 4
Amesbury 2 Tadley Calvea 2
East Cowes Vics 5 AFC Stoneham 6
Laverstock & Ford 2 Hythe & Dibden 3
Portland 2 Totton & Eling 0
Ringwood 7 Andover NS 0
Romsey 4 Pewsey Vale 1
Portsmouth Senior Cup, semi-final
Baffins Milton Rovers 2 Moneyfields 1

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division
Bush Hill 4 Golden Common 1
Fleetlands 0 Winchester Castle 2
Headley United 1 Hedge End Rangers 2
Liphook 2 Infinity 2
QK Southampton 3 Canfield 0
Division One
AFC Petersfield 0 Hayling United 5
Andover Lions 1 Four Marks 2

WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE Premier Division

Moneyfield 4 Winchester City 0
Division 1
AFC Stoneham 2 Bashley 1
Tadley Calvea 2 Fawley 1

DREW SMITH GROUP SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE Premier Division

AFC Gulf Western 1 Comrades 0
Braishield 3 Soton University 1
Junior 1
BTC Soton A 4 Capital 2
Nursling Res 1 Compton 2
Priory Rovers 0 Sporting BTC 0
Junior 3: Hedge End Town Res 2 AFC Hittingbury 0
Upham Res 7 Shield 1, Shield 1
Upham Res 5, Waltham Wolves 1 AFC Phoenix 6
Veterans 0-35: Gosport (awarded)
Redlynch & W (defaulted).

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Non league FOOTBALL



Zach Glasspool heads his first goal for Sholing

Zach feeling at home at Portsmouth Road

FORMER Winchester City frontman Zach Glasspool is enjoying life at Sholing.

A few eyebrows were raised when the 27-year-old left Winchester's Southern One South & West promotion quest to return to the Sydenhams League last month, but Glasspool already feels at home in Portsmouth Road, writes Neil Vincent.

"I've settled in really well here," he said. "I can't believe how positive they are!"

"The boys have taken to me quite well.

"Since I've come in they're starting to do things, starting to get the ball down a little bit better instead of just bashing it, which is good.

'Getting there'

"I wouldn't play for a club that wouldn't play football properly and we're gradually getting there."

Looking forward to next season, former Alresford

Town man Glasspool added: "We need to work on a few things, bring a few players in and hopefully have a cup run as well.

"We're still trying to piece things together. I'm learning the patterns of how these guys play and they're learning how I play.

"We need to just build on that every week, continue to improve and hopefully we can aim for the title and the FA Vase next season."

The Blues collar title

PORTLAND United made short work of wrapping up the Sydenhams Division One title.

The Blues, who returned to the Wessex ranks only last summer from the Dorset Premier League, got themselves over the line with three games to spare after thrashing Andover New Street 5-0 last Saturday.

A hat-trick from Alex Godfrey and goals from Carl McClements and Lewis Whyton saw them lift the crown at the first time of asking.

After a hectic week in which Portland crammed in four games in seven days, manager Gary Bailey was rightly proud of his troops.

"There is huge relief and pride with what this squad has achieved," he smiled. "To secure back-to-back promotions and secure the league, it's more than we could ever have wished.

"It is fantastic for the club, everyone has worked so hard, the players have been terrific.

"Today was tough after the games we've played this week, but they came through it."

The hectic schedule meant the Blues started slowly at Andover, but they were ahead in the 20th minute.

Good play from Ryan McKechnie and Alex Halloran set up Godfrey.

Bailey added: "We struggled in the first half and the goal should have settled us down. There was always a bit of tension about us."

United doubled their lead within five minutes of the second period as Whyton powered home a free header from a corner.

Pressure lifted, Portland began to play with more freedom.

Godfrey added his second with a 65th-minute volley and then completed his hat-trick two minutes later, leaving McClements to round things off.

"It was nice to get another clean sheet and our defence all season has been fantastic," said Bailey. "We could have scored more, but I'll take 5-0, thank you!"

Hotshot says: 'we are going to win the league, next year'

Mason believes Boatmen will win the 2016/17 title

SHOLING hotshot Dan Mason believes the Boatmen can win the 2016/17 Sydenhams Premier title.

Mason, who has been slugging it out all season with Salisbury's Sam Wilson for the division's golden boot award, says he and his teammates have already started thinking about next season's challenge, writes George Brooks.

"We can win the league next year, that's our target now," insisted the 23-year-old.

"We have played some good football this year and dominated teams. Our main target for next season is to start closing games out and to not concede as many goals.

"We need to dominate games from the first minute to the last and we have to defend better as a team - we have conceded too many goals from set pieces.

"We will all work hard over the summer and come back stronger next season."

Disappointed

The Boatmen last won the Sydenhams Premier League title in 2013/14 and Mason admitted the team are disappointed that they failed to challenge runaway leaders Salisbury for this season's crown.

"We didn't have the season we'd hoped for - we wanted to challenge Salisbury for the league," he said.

Injuries

"Unfortunately, we had a lot of injuries to contend with and then we didn't play for two months because of problems with our pitch.

"It killed our momentum and it was a real challenge for us to get fit again - you can do as much training as you want, match fitness comes from playing games.



Dan Mason (right) celebrates with brother Byron

"Hopefully next season will be a smoother ride and we can win the title."

Due to a number of fixture postponements over the winter period, the Boatmen have had to play their final five matches in the space of ten days.

However, Mason says this has hasn't affected the team's progress and has helped to make the players' bond stronger.

The forward believes this will give the team an advantage ahead of next season's title push.

"It hasn't really changed anything.

"We're all mates and we get to see each other a lot so, if anything, it's brought us closer together.

"It feels like pre-season already - we have that team spirit and togetherness.

"Hopefully we can carry that over into next season and win the league."

Picture by Ray Routledge



Alex Godfrey, right

Non league FOOTBALL



Former Eastleigh boss Paul Doswell lifts the National League South trophy with Sutton United

Achieving promotion is the proudest day for manager

PAUL Doswell achieved many great things during his inspirational time in charge of Eastleigh.

But the former Spitfires supremo admits that winning the National League South title with Sutton United tops the lot.

The Us – captained by fellow ex-Eastleigh man Jamie Collins – lifted the trophy in front of more than 1,500 joyous fans at Gander Green Lane last Saturday.

Goals from ex-Salisbury City striker Dan Fitchett – his 21st of the season – and Ross Stearn got them over the line with a 2-0 win over Chelmsford City.

Admitting the emotion of the occasion had got to him, Compton-based Doswell – a lifelong Saints fanatic – said: “I had a couple of tears coming off the pitch, which is not like me.

“I am elated for everyone at the club. I feel particularly proud for the players and proud for myself and my family – it’s been a long and exciting journey over eight years and to come back from last year’s disappointments is even better.

Drug

“Ninety per cent of football is not great, the travelling and losing, the wet and cold weather.

“The ten per cent is the drug that keeps you going and we’re addicts, we live for the ten per cent.”

It was Doswell who sowed the seeds for Eastleigh’s heady climb up the football pyramid which has taken them from Wessex League mediocrity to National League play-off hopefuls in little more than a decade.

He was appointed Sutton manager in 2008 and led the Us to the Ryman Premier Division title three years



Rolling back the years: Paul Doswell celebrates Eastleigh’s Ryman Premier Division play-off triumph with young son Freddie in 2005

later.

Reflecting on his success on both sides of the Hampshire/Surrey divide, Doswell said: “I got Eastleigh from the Wessex League to the Conference South and that was amazing even for me.

“But to get Sutton in the Conference

South was a very good achievement because the club was in danger of going another league down if we were not careful.

“It was a question of two years stabilising the club and getting it on a sound footing. So, in terms of my personal achievement, winning this

league is the best.

“To go up as champions, 25 games unbeaten – so far – having scored the most and conceded the least goals is an incredible achievement.

“When I came here we were in the Ryman Premier and everyone feared going down to Ryman One. So to be stood here now, going up to the National League, is fantastic.

“I don’t think we’re going to go in there and just make the numbers up. It’ll be difficult but, if we can keep this team together, we’ll be competitive.”

United could well have Tranmere – and Eastleigh – for company in the National League. Going into today’s final games, both looked destined to miss out on the play-offs with Braintree hot favourites to nab fifth place.

Doswell said: “I remember, as a Saints supporter, being 3-0 up at half-time at Tranmere Rovers and losing 4-3 and that long journey home.

“I am a supporter of the Saints and of Sutton United and to think we’ll be playing Tranmere is unbelievable.”

He added: “This is a very famous non-League club that over the years has had some amazing days – Leeds, Coventry and winning the Ryman Premier, and now we have the National League South title.

“It’s a special club, it has hundreds of volunteers – people who care passionately. It’s like a big family here and you get hooked in.

“They deserve all the praise – Bruce’s (chairman, Bruce Elliott) team off the pitch is as good as my team on it.

“The fans have been amazing – we get 150 for away games, and they came last season even when we were not doing well, so this is a reward for their loyalty.”



Glenn Southam

Pair leave Dragons

GLEN Southam and Shaun McAuley are on their way out of Basingstoke Town.

The former Eastleigh duo have been released as the north Hampshire club prepare for life after relegation from the Vanarama National League South.

Ex-Swindon Town winger/striker Lloyd Macklin has also been let go, as has a third ex-Eastleigh midfielder Jamie Brown – plus James Harper and Ryan Case – as Town prepare to shine a light on youth.

Manager Terry Brown, who is taking Town full-time next season, explained: “The philosophy of the club is to look at our own academy players first and then to supplement the squad with the most talented young players who have been released from local Premier, Championship and League clubs.

“I have been watching under-21 games for the last six months and several players I have seen will be looking for full-time contracts in the summer.

“What we can offer them is a unique opportunity to train full-time under first-class coaches in a supportive, disciplined environment that will help them grow both on and off the field.

“Some will progress quickly and be sold on to professional clubs, the later developers will form the spine of our team that will enable us to progress through the pyramid, playing passing football and hopefully enjoying several exciting cup runs.”

Basingstoke, though, will keep a core of seasoned, senior players in the ranks to help the youngsters along.

“To enable the club to succeed and win games in the Evo-Stik or Ryman League we will need some experienced players to help our new players adjust to men’s football,” Brown explained.



Shaun McAuley

Non league FOOTBALL



Bournemouth boss Eddie Howe

Howe believes Cherries will benefit from Poole Town winning the Southern League

AFC BOURNEMOUTH boss Eddie Howe has congratulated Poole Town on winning the Southern League – and believes the Cherries can benefit from their non-League neighbours scaling the pyramid.

The Dolphins will step up to the National League South next season, the sixth tier of English football.

And with young Cherries like Joe Quigley and Matt Butcher having already cut their senior teeth with Poole, Howe has vowed to maintain good relations with Tom Killick's newly-crowned Evo-Stik Southern Premier champions.

"I think it's great news for Poole and the area as well," said Howe.

"They have finally done it and have worked so hard to get into that posi-

tion. I have a lot of time for Tommy and the club and it is potentially good news for us.

"The relationship between the clubs is very good. We would love to loan them players and, of course, the higher the level our lads are playing at, the better."

Killick, meanwhile, says the vast majority of his title-winning squad deserve the opportunity to play in National League South.

"There is no way they would get blind loyalty from me. If I didn't think they were capable of it then it wouldn't happen," he stressed.

"But I feel the vast majority of the squad deserve the chance and, more importantly, I think they are capable of it.

When you have those two things together, you are keen to keep players.

"I know the players have become a really close-knit group and they fought so hard to achieve this.

"I would be surprised if any of them didn't want to stay together and have a go at what they have been striving for.

"I love working with this group because they get on so well.

"I love seeing them when they are together because they do get a lot of enjoyment from being in each other's company and I'm really keen to maintain that.

"But, realistically, we do need to strengthen. In terms of our promotions, this will probably be the biggest jump we have had to make."

Killick hails Dolphins' will to win after making come back

Side have already secured Southern Premier crown

TOM Killick hailed Poole Town's will to win after his Southern Premier champions came back from behind to edge their final league game 2-1 at Cambridge City last weekend.

Ex-AFC Totton forward Luke Roberts and converted striker Lewis Lindsay got the Dolphins out of trouble after captain Buster Harridane had put the hosts ahead.

For once Poole were playing without pressure, having already guaranteed themselves the title and National League South football next season. So Killick was impressed that they still had the desire to take all three points.

"I was interested to see how the game panned out, given the players knew there was nothing particularly riding on it," he said.

"I thought it was really positive that, having gone a goal behind, there was a real determination to come back and win.

"It was a positive reflection of the players' mentality."

Dolphins midfielder Marvin Brooks headed against the bar before Harridane slotted into the empty net after the ball had evaded Poole keeper Nick Hutchings.

It stayed that way until midway through the second half when Lindsay's knockdown allowed Roberts to slot in the equaliser.

Moments later goalkeeper Tom Rees replaced Hutchings for his first league appearance of the season, while under-18s ace Ryan Kelly went



Lewis Lindsay celebrates his winner at Cambridge.

on for striker Richard Gillespie.

With seven minutes remaining, the champions grabbed the winner.

Brooks climbed well in the box

and his headed lay-off was tapped through Barrett's legs by the gleeful Lindsay, who spent time on loan with Totton from AFC Bournemouth.

The match marked Jack Dickson's final appearance for Poole prior to him departing to study in the United States.

McMahon still has a future at Ebbsfleet

FORMER Eastleigh skipper Daryl McMahon will be staying at the helm of Ebbsfleet United next season – whatever happens in the play-offs.

Having spent seven long months at the top on the National League South, Ebbsfleet were knocked off their lofty perch by Paul Doswell's Sutton United who were crowned champions last weekend.

Doswell won the battle of the former Spitfires by leading the Us on a stunning run of 25 games unbeaten, leaving McMahon to face the lottery of the play-offs.

But Ebbsfleet owner Dr Abdulla Al-Humaidi, who was in the directors' box when McMahon's men lost their crucial top-two clash at Gander Green Lane a fortnight ago, believes the Irishman is the right man to take the Kent club forward.

Tremendous job

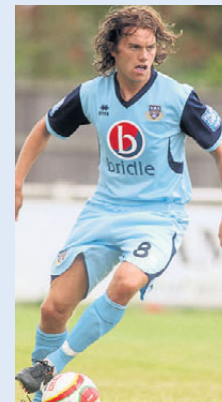
He said: "He's done a tremendous job. The style of football is attractive and he can only get better.

"It's the highest we've been since we took over three years ago. The first season we ended in fourth, last season it was eighth and we're runners-up this season.

"He's done a good job and can only improve. I'm sure he learns a lot, as we do, and we will be sticking with Daryl no matter what the outcome is."

Saluting Doswell's champions, Dr Al-Humaidi added: "All credit goes to Sutton. If it were another season, we'd be finishing top with the number of points we have.

"If it weren't for Sutton's incredible run – 25 matches unbeaten – I think we'd finish as champions."



Daryl McMahon

Non league FOOTBALL



Boss Ken Vaughan

Poppies' sigh of relief after tough season ends in safety

BOSS Ken Vaughan believes Bournemouth Poppies' tough season in the Sydenhams Wessex Premier was to be expected.

The Victoria Park side are safe from the drop but will finish the campaign well short of a comfortable mid-table place.

"We've been down more than we've been up," Vaughan admitted.

"It's been a horrible season, not nice for us at all, but we can only expect what we get.

"If you haven't got the funds then you have got to expect what we're doing.

"We're not the only ones, I

think there are a few teams like that."

Poppies were blown away 6-1 at Horndean last Saturday – despite taking the lead through Vaughan's goalkeeper son, Kenny, making a rare outfield appearance for the side.

His effort proved in vain

as braces from Mark Smith, Dan Hayes and Robbie Tambling swept the Deans to victory.

It was 1-1 at the break, but Deans boss Craig Pearce said: "At half-time we spoke about being more ruthless and, to be fair, the players came out flying."

Reign over at Shots

BARRY Smith was today taking his last game in charge of Eastleigh's Vanarama National League rivals Aldershot Town.

The north Hampshire club have accepted Smith's decision not to renew his contract for 2016/17.

Smith, who was due to bring the curtain down on his year-long Shots' reign against Bromley today, is leaving for personal and family reasons.

"I am very grateful that the board of directors have shown such confidence in me and wanted me to extend my contract for next season, but I had to make a decision for my family," the 42-year-old Scot explained.

"The board have given me their full backing throughout the season, but also have understood why I needed to make this decision to return to Scotland."

Ahead of today, former Dundee and Alloa boss Smith had won 15 of his 45 league games at Aldershot, who sat 16th in non-league's top tier.

Shots' chairman Shahid Azeem said: "I would like to thank Barry for his honesty in making what must have been a very difficult decision. We are sorry to lose him, but recognise that some things are more important than football."

"I have the utmost respect for Barry as someone who is totally dedicated to his work and both ethical and honest in everything he does."

"He completely bought into this club last summer, and what we were trying to achieve, and made a big commitment in moving to the area with his wife and young son," he added.

"On behalf of everybody at Aldershot Town, I wish Barry and his family the very best for the future."

Former Shots' boss Gary Waddock is the fans' favourite to take over.



Upham Reserves celebrate. Pictures by Lauren Cargill, LRC Photography.

Upham have done the double and are now up for the terrific treble

WHAT a season it has been for Upham Reserves!

They have already lifted two pieces of silverware and now have their beady eyes on a sparkling treble.

So far Chris Payne's blue and yellow army have the SDFA Junior B Cup and the Roy Wightman Junior Cup adorning their trophy shelf.

Now, as the only side left unbeaten in the entire Southampton Saturday Football League (as of April 26), they have high hopes of adding the Junior Three title to their impressive 2015/16 haul.

"Both cup finals have been a battle, which is the sort of football we enjoy playing," smiled proud manager Payne.

"All we need to do now is keep focused and win out remaining games, then the treble is ours."

"All of the players have been outstanding this season, including our captain Wesley Allwood, who never fails to step up to the mark and lead the team as well as scoring all-important goals along the way."

Upham Reserves beat Kings Park Rangers 2-0 in the SDFA Junior Cup

final courtesy of goals from Allwood and Rob Pfeiffer. Pfeiffer was also on target, along with Stuart Creece, in the 2-1 Roy Wightman Junior Cup defeat of Nursling Reserves.

Upham Reserves: Chris Payne (manager), Wesley Allwood (captain), Leigh Bishop, Rob Pfeiffer, Rocky Moore, Robby Dale, Rich Freeland, Ollie Coles, Steven Purnell, Gareth Lloyd, Ryan Cunningham, Ash Hughes, James Morgan, Tom King, Stu Creece, Glen Nicol, Jake Chamberlain, Kieron Shalloe, Ian Heath, Chris Rae and Myles Lofthouse.



Upham captain Wesley Allwood.

Non league FOOTBALL



Red-carded: Dorchester's Franklyn Clarke (right).

Clarke knows he must learn after red card for slap

FRANKLYN Clarke feels he has lessons to learn after being sent off in Dorchester Town's 4-1 home defeat to Kettering last weekend.

The former Blackfield & Langley and Wimborne Town midfielder was given his marching orders for a retaliatory push on Poppies' Ben Stephens.

"I won the foul off him and, when I got up, he slapped me on the cheek," said Clarke.

"I did the same to him and the ref-

eree came storming over and showed me a straight red card.

Stephens remained on the field and Clarke said: "I felt I was unlucky.

Handbags

"It was just handbags and it wasn't fair to not give him anything, but I've got to learn just to get on with it."

Clarke, who made 15 starts for Blackfield in the Sydenhams Premier last season, became an instant fans' favourite at Dorchester in De-

cember when he scored against local rivals Weymouth on his debut.

The 6ft 2in, Liverpool-born midfielder is already looking forward to next season with the Magpies in the Southern Premier Division.

"I want us to progress and push on," he said. "Mark (Jermyn, Dorchester manager) has said it is a young side and it is.

"We just need to get used to playing with each other and improve so we can be closer to those play-offs."

City director prepared to let goal-machine Bentley leave

Club won't stand in way of prolific striker's ambition

WINCHESTER City director of football Dave Malone is prepared to let goal machine Warren Bentley leave after the club's season ended in play-off heartbreak.

Bentley was restricted to one half-chance as City lost their Southern One South & West play-off semi-final 1-0 at Banbury on Tuesday, *writes Simon Walter*.

After two prolific seasons with Winchester it may well prove to be the former Alresford striker's last game for the club.

Malone said: "We agreed to leave discussions til the end of the season, so there's a lot of talking to be done with Warren.

"He's probably one that other clubs will covet.

"He loves the club but he's ambitious as well.

"You can't blame him for wanting to try, but it has to be right for him.

"After more than 100 goals in two seasons, we won't stand in his way.

"I had this with Forbesy (Andy Forbes).

"You have to respect players and Warren's been an absolutely top lad.

"He's been a credit to himself as a player and a man – but I'm hopeful no-one will come in that suits him."

Malone believes City's limited resources contributed to a disappointing performance at Banbury, who were worthy winners – albeit that it took an 86th-minute goal to settle matters.

Credit

He added: "We've had a great season and started off like a train, but have a very small squad and that's caught up with us.

"We tailed off and our key players, Warren in particular, looked tired.

"That's not surprising because I think he's played 54 games and scored even more goals.



Winchester City's Warren Bentley

"We didn't have anyone on the bench to change the game, but to finish fifth is a credit to all the lads.

"Having said that, I'd rather not be in the play-offs than lose like that.

"It was a body blow to lose at that late stage."

Manager Paul Masters was in agreement with Malone that Bentley should be allowed to move on with

City's best wishes – but only if the right club comes along.

"I've said all along that I wouldn't want to stop the lad playing higher if the right move comes through.

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens," he said.

"I don't want him going somewhere that doesn't suit him.

"Warren wants a bit of time to see

where everything's at and decide what he wants to do.

"He loves the club but, if he does decide to leave, he would go with our best wishes.

"He couldn't have given us any more than he's given.

"He's been great.

"I couldn't have asked for any more from him."

Rousing send-off

THERE was an emotional ending to the first weekend of Southampton & District Tyro League finals held at AFC Totton's Testwood Stadium.

With just over two minutes left to play of Sholing Youth's 2-0 win over BTC Southampton in the under-13 Tyro Challenge Cup final, there was barely a dry eye in the house.

It followed BTC boss Ryan Lambert bringing off Ben Wells who was playing his final game due to a medical condition.

Sholing FC secretary Greg Dickson reported: "When it was announced over the tannoy the reason for the change, the watching supporters stood, applauded and cheered.

"The referee joined in the applause and a tearful Ben collapsed into manager Ryan Lambert's arms, leaving very few dry eyes in the Testwood Stadium.

Presentation

"At the final whistle everyone went over to Ben and then a presentation was made to him by both managers and he was given each team's shirt signed by each side.

"The Southampton & District Tyro League Committee would like to wish Ben and his family all the best with his forthcoming treatment."

Sholing Youth won the final 2-0 with goals by Lewis Nagle and Joshua Jones early in the second half. Jones was named man-of-the-match.

The Under-14 Tommy Traynor Trophy Final was a high-scoring affair with man-of-the-match Devon Arnold scoring all four goals for South Wilts Soccer School in their 4-2 victory over Soccer 4 All Tigers (Ryan Smith, Joshua Dacre).

Roared

Sportstars Tigers, meanwhile, roared to a 3-1 success over Totton & Eling Red in the Under-14 Tyro Challenge Cup Final with goals by Daniel Bonavia, Tomasz Krakowiak and Matthew Dean.

Callum Crotty bagged T&E's consolation goal, while Sportstars Tigers' George Kirk was man-of-the-match.

The Under-13 Tommy Traynor Trophy Final went the way of Bitterne Youth Red. They beat Alresford Town 4-0 through Harry Nandin, Ben Wiltshire (2) and Sidney Miles.

Despite the scoreline, it was Bitterne's goalkeeper Thomas Landreath who took the man-of-the-match honours for keeping Alresford at bay.

Non league FOOTBALL



Brazilian Barcelos a thorn in the side yet again

WINCHESTER City are not the first local side to have their play-off dreams shattered by Banbury United's match-winner Felipe Barcelos.

The 24-year-old Brazilian, who moved to Oxford aged 14, scored for Oxford City in their 4-2 Southern Premier play-off final defeat of AFC Totton in May, 2012.

Stuart Ritchie's Stags had dominated the early stages but, against the run of play, Barcelos fired City into a 39th-minute lead.

Stefan Brown soon equalised, but Barcelos was then involved in a controversial sequence of events on 58 minutes, chasing on to a long ball from what the Stags believed was an offside position.

No flag was raised and, to compound Totton's fury, the referee penalised Jamie Whisken for handball, allowing Steve Basham to score from the spot.

Goals by Kynan Isaac and Albi Skendi extended Oxford's lead before

Mark Osman struck late for Totton. Oxford City's manager that day was Mike Ford – now boss of Banbury.

● WINCHESTER City will have a new face overseeing their under-16 and under-18 set-ups next season.

That man is Elliott Trodd, previously manager of City's under-15s who will become under-16s for 2016/17. Trodd will relinquish management of that side, which will now be run by Gareth Byers.

Winchester's current under-18s

boss Greg Llewelyn will step up to liaise between the under-18s and Grant Orchard's reserve side. Ryan Andress will manage the under-18s.

City already have a strong squad of players at both under-16 and under-18 level, but are always looking to strengthen.

An open training day is planned for Saturday, May 7. Any player, aged 15 to 18, interested in attending should contact Elliott Trodd on 07968 288283 or Ryan Andress on 07891 245839.

Play-off 'a tight one'

WINCHESTER City boss Paul Masters predicts Monday's Southern One South & West play-off final will be "a tight one."

A month ago, he would have tipped Taunton Town to join automatically-promoted champions Cinderford in the Premier Division next season.

But Masters, whose Winchester side were second best to Banbury in Tuesday's semi-final, anticipates a close battle.

"If you'd asked me a month ago, I would have said Taunton to win, but they've not been in the best form," he said.

"I know Banbury beat Taunton (2-0) recently, but Lewis Powell wasn't playing and he makes a big difference up front for Taunton.

"It's going to be a real tight game.

"It's a shame we didn't get through, but those two finished second and third so I suppose people who think the play-offs are unfair would say that they're the two who deserve to get to the final."

Banbury boss Mike Ford believes his side will have to be more relaxed and make better decisions than they did in Tuesday night's 1-0 win over Winchester, settled by Felipe Barcelos's late winner.

Ford said: "We've got to deal with the nerves on Monday, play a bit better and our decision-making must be better.

"It was an edgy night all round on Tuesday.

"There are a lot of young players in my side and Winchester made it really difficult for us. They dropped off and let us have the ball but we spent too long on it and didn't move it quickly enough.

"That was my fourth 1-0 victory in seven play-off games during my career. They can be very tight and tense affairs but we should have won this one by a country mile.

"Their goalkeeper has made several good saves, we should have scored straight after half time when Felipe [Barcelos] managed to give the ball back to the keeper instead of putting it into the net."



Felipe Barcelos.

Winchester boss gracious in play-off semi-final defeat

Disappointment over manner of late winning goal

WINCHESTER City boss Paul Masters is the first to admit Banbury United deserve their place in Monday's Southern One South & West play-off final, but he was still disappointed to lose.

The Puritans were the better side on the night, yet the longer Tuesday's semi-final remained goalless, the more hopeful he became that it would be Winchester who would snatch a late goal and scrape into Monday's final, *writes Wendy Gee*.

Banbury's Brazilian striker Felipe Barcelos had other ideas, however, cashing in on a misunderstanding in the City defence to fire the Oxfordshire hosts through 1-0 with an 86th-minute winner.

"They were the better side on the night, I can't deny that, but I thought we were growing into the game," said Masters.

"When we got there, I did fancy us (to win).

"We knew they were going to play a lot of football, but we were beginning to create chances and it was a blow to be caught by a killer goal right at the end."

Barcelos pounced following a mix-up between City centre-half Leigh Mills and their otherwise excellent young Canadian goalkeeper Brendan Norris.

"It left the gleeful South American with the simple task of slotting into an open goal.

"If we'd been beaten by a good goal, it wouldn't have felt so bad, but we've been undone by one ball over the top from a dead ball in their half," said Masters.

"Losing to a wonder goal is one thing, but it makes it worse losing to a goal like that."

City, though, could not begrudge Banbury their victory and can take heart from an encouraging first season back in the Southern League



Winchester City manager Paul Masters

ranks.

Finishing fifth and reaching the play-off semi-finals was no mean feat considering they were Sydenhams Premier runners-up just a year ago and were not promoted until mid-June after Flackwell Heath had turned down the opportunity to go up.

When the season kicked off City were aiming no higher than consolidation, but expectation levels inevitably shot up when they banged in 19 goals in their first four games.

They stayed in and around the play-off zone throughout a long, tiring

season which also took in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup final and decent runs in the FA Cup and Red Insure Cup.

But, ultimately, the shattered Citizens stumbled over the finish line as weary minds and heavy limbs slowed them down.

"Probably the lack of squad depth showed towards the end," conceded Masters. "Plus other teams got to know us and how we play. We knew we weren't going to keep blowing teams away like we did at the start of the season.

"But I've said all along that we've

over-achieved. Every single one of these lads has been fantastic."

With Tuesday's disappointment still raw, Masters will give himself a break before turning his attention to next season.

Until he speaks to chairman Paul Murray and director of football Dave Malone, he doesn't know if there will be financial scope to strengthen the squad over the summer – or even if he will still be in charge.

"We haven't discussed me yet or spoken about players," he said. "What we bring in player-wise depends on the budget."

Non league FOOTBALL



Steve Claridge

Melksham defeat ends Salisbury's double dreams

SALISBURY'S hopes of completing a league/cup double were dashed by Melksham Town on Wednesday.

Having roared to the Sydenhams Wessex Premier title, Steve Claridge's Whites were aiming for glory in the Wiltshire Senior Cup.

But, despite dominating possession,

they paid the price for missed chances in a 2-0 defeat at Chippenham's Hardenhuish Park. Two goals in the last 20 minutes from Joe Stradling and Gary Higdon carried Toolstation Western Premier outfit Melksham to victory.

Salisbury were looking to bounce back at AFC Portchester in the league today.

They head to Fareham Town on Tuesday before wrapping up the campaign at home to Newport IoW next Saturday. For Newport, it will be their second trip to the Raymond McEnhill Stadium inside six days. On Monday at 3pm they take on Team Solent in the Sydenhams League Cup final at Old Sarum.



Footballers from Hythe and Dibden Tigers and Oakwood Dynamos youth teams raising funds for Dylan's Quest

Teammates play up to help net funds for Dylan's Quest

AS a popular footballer for Oakwood Youth FC, Dylan Vanhear always put a smile on his teammates' faces.

Last Saturday it was the club's turn to do their bit for their poorly defender with a 12-hour sponsored five-a-side football match to raise money for his charity Dylan's Quest.

The last year has been extremely tough for 12-year-old Dylan who, in May 2015, limped into hospital with what he thought was a football injury, writes Wendy Gee.

A number of treatments failed to resolve it and, sadly, doctors found tumours on his spinal cord which were removed in a gruelling seven-and-a-half-hour operation.

Dylan spent the bulk of the next year in Southampton General Hospital and during his stay there he recognised that further funding was needed to assist children and young adults in similar situations – hence the creation of Dylan's Quest.

Last Saturday's marathon, which pitted Oakwood against their friends from Hythe & Dibden Youth FC at



Dylan Vanhear

Test Park, was one of several fundraising events the club have held.

It was the brainchild of Craig Ford, manager of Oakwood, who got together with Hythe boss Ian Brombley to get the event off the ground.

"Dylan started out playing for Oakwood Rangers and then became part of my Dynamos team," Ford explained.



Hythe and Dibden v Oakwood action

"He was a very popular player who always put a smile on people's faces and he still does. He's a really lovely lad.

"He played as a defender and he was a bit of a gentle giant really with a tall physique and quite strong.

"After falling poorly Dylan came up with a lot of fundraising ideas while in hospital and the club has done a lot

to help raise money such as a sponsored bag pack at Tesco last year.

"We're still collating the money raised from last weekend's match, players from both Oakwood and Hythe & Dibden had sponsorship forms.

"But we did a raffle and that alone raised £303."

Dylan, who is back at home in Lordswood, attended the last couple of hours of the five-a-side match with his mum Michelle and presented the trophy to Oakwood's Reece Scammell.

"The day went really well," said Ford. "We had several teams there from under-7s to under-13s and Dylan came along for the last age-group. "It was a delight to see him."

Dylan's Quest has so far raised in excess of £9,500.

The money will go towards play specialists and therapy teams at Southampton Hospital Charity who have played a vital part in Dylan's rehab.

● For more information go to: <http://www.justgiving.com/Dylanvanhear/2>

Amesbury going up

AMESBURY Town are celebrating promotion to the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Gareth Horner's Blues required one victory from their last two games to clinch runners-up spot in Division One.

They achieved it on Wednesday with a 3-1 home win over newly-crowned league champions Portland United who will join them in the top flight next season.

Danny Finnigan bagged a brace and Josh Stockwell scored the other for the elated Blues, who successfully fended off Tadley Calvea in the race for second spot.

Bonnyead Park boss Horner beamed: "It topped off what has been an eventful three years for the club.

"Who would have thought that in such a short space of time we would have achieved promotion to the Wessex Premier League?"

Amesbury had to wait 34 minutes for the opening goal to arrive when Stockwell, on his first start, drilled his shot into the bottom corner.

That lead was doubled by a Finnigan header on the hour mark, but Portland pulled one back through Ross Carmichael's deflected free kick – the first goal Town

'keeper Paddy Creese had conceded in 623 minutes of football.

Chances followed at either end before Finnigan got the promotion party started with his second and Amesbury's third in stoppage time. It was his 26th goal of a fruitful season.

● EASTLEIGH are launching an adult women's team next season.

Trials for Eastleigh FC Ladies will be held at the Silverlake Stadium on Friday, May 20 from 6.30-8pm.

For further details please contact mcastle@eastleighfc.com or ring 023 8061 3361.

● FANS still have time to bag a 2016/17 Eastleigh season ticket at the early bird rate. Terrace ticket prices are £120 adults, £80 concessions, £40 under-16s and free for under-7s. Call 023 8061 3361 for details.



Josh Stockwell is head over heels after scoring for Amesbury

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Southampton 1 , Manchester Utd. 0

R. STOKES (83 minutes)



THIS IS the story that the Echo has been waiting to tell for years. Southampton, the friendly club from the South Coast, have visited Wembley for the first time and now they will march home with the FA Cup.

What a wonderful moment for club and fans. Peter Rodrigues led his heroes to the royal box and the Saints captain, received the Cup from the Queen.

Saints proved that they are indeed a fine side. Every man was a hero, but spare a thought for Bobby Stokes. The little lad from Portsmouth scored the all-important goal just seven minutes from the end.



BOBBY STOKES
 ... scored the winner.

Tomorrow's triumph trail

SOUTHAMPTON city centre faces its most crowded Sunday on record when thousands of fans are expected to welcome the Saints home.

Bob sends his best wishes

MANY good luck cards and telegrams poured into Southampton's Cup Final headquarters, in Surrey this week. There was a particularly special one from Bob Stokoe, the Sunderland manager. Stokoe guided Sunderland to a Cup win in 1973—the last time a Second Division club won the trophy and, coincidentally, they stayed in the same hotel as Saints. And the hotel staff put money on Saints to win the cup, just as they did for Sunderland.

4.15 pm. They will be welcomed by the Mayor, and at 4.30 there will be speeches for the big crowd.

But there will be plenty of opportunity to see the Saints before that. For an hour-and-a-quarter manager Laurie McWhinney and the team will be visiting most areas of the city in an open-topped bus.

This is the route:
 Depart The Dell at 3 pm, Howard Road, Shirley Road, Park Street, Oakley Road (traffic lights at 3.01 pm), Cumbrian Way, Kendall Avenue, Windermere Avenue, Redbridge Hill (traffic lights 3.15 pm).

Winchester Road, Warren Avenue, Coxford Road, Lordswood Road, Hill Lane (Hill Lane/Burgess Road 3.25 pm), Burgess Road, Broadlands Road, Portsmouth Road (Portsmouth Road/St. Denys Road 3.35 pm), St. Denys Road.

Manor Farm Road, Meggeson Avenue, West End Road, Beauworth Avenue, Somerset Avenue, Bitterne Road, Hinkler Road (Hinkler Road/Bursledon Road 3.55 pm), Bursledon Road, Lances Hill, Northam Road (Six Dials 4 pm), Palmerston Road, Poundtree Road.

The Saints' bus will meet up with the Southampton band outside the Odeon Cinema and the procession will then go along Above Bar, Commercial Road and

Havelock Road to arrive in the forecourt of the Civic Centre at about 4.15 pm.

There has been disappointment in some areas of the city that they have not been included in the team's route. But Saints have explained that it had been worked out in consultation with the police

Extra buses for crowds

EXTRA buses to cater for the crowds expected to welcome Saints on their tour of the city are being laid on by Southampton Corporation.

"In addition, extra buses will be added to other routes, if our inspectors think there is sufficient demand," said Mr. John Owen, traffic superintendent.

"We shall also be laying on plenty of buses in the city centre for home-going trips, as and when the Saints tour ends."

Saints goalkeeper Ian Turner is in the right place to beat down a shot from Gordon Hill (right) and recover the ball to clear.


Today's other football

THE results of today's other matches are:
 Scottish Cup final: Hearts 1, Rangers 3.
 Scottish Premier Division: Apr 3, Celtic 5; Dundee 1, Motherwell 0.


SPECIAL

MONDAY night's "Evening Echo" will contain a special 4-page supplement with pictures and report of the FA Cup Final and the Saints' Sunday tour of the city.

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LAWRIE McMENEMY'S SOCCERSCOPE

The right stuff has bred success

I POSSIBLY said it in passing but now I think everyone appreciates that this has been one of our most successful seasons ever.

Win or lose today, to get to Wembley was a tremendous achievement. Even to the most knowledgeable person, it all probably didn't sink in until they were on their way to the stadium.

But when the team emerged from the tunnel, the full impact must have hit home at every Solonian throughout the world. It took the name of Southampton into almost every household in the country and to many more throughout the world, much as it did with Sunderland three years ago.

Apart from all that, we had the first team narrowly missing out on promotion mainly because of a poor away record. But let us not forget to praise the almost unique home record which led to more wins than almost anyone else in the League.

It certainly provided more goals which all added up to a tremendous entertainment over a nine-month period for anybody who came to The Dell.

To play this type of football requires a team to be really adventurous and in the modern-day game that so often puts you on a hiding to nothing.

That is especially so away from home unless, like Manchester United, you have a following of 10,000-plus supporters per away game.

I can't see any way in which I can get the sort of player I have gathered together over the past couple of years to become negative or defensive every other week and in any event, I don't want to.

The basic problem is to get this type of player to accept

that at some stage in the game the team as a whole will have to be able to defend when put under pressure.

It must be remembered that I haven't signed a new player for well over a year. The players I have gathered at The Dell are certainly moving in the right direction and next season could be the one in which we really get what we want most of all—promotion.

And not only that. We are moving towards getting the ability to stay in the First Division once we arrive there, rather than just simply hanging on.

I think that if this is achieved, most people will be more than satisfied even if it meant three years of effort in the Second Division.

How many people in all honesty can say that Second Division fare has been all that bad? The players have endeavoured to give 100 per cent, and in the process have provided value for money.

And the successes of the Reserve and A teams in their respective league and cup competitions give further proof of how strong the pool of players has become.

The biggest overall strength of these teams is that the players have grown up together, graduating through school apprentices to professionals.

Encouraged by a hard-working staff at The Dell, they have grown to carry the principles which I believe in—effort and dedication throughout every game and the will to win for the club and the supporters.

As professionals, they have been encouraged to concentrate on the good things of football; in other words, attacking with which requires plenty of training with the ball and working on the

basics of the game from their very early days, namely passing, trapping, heading, shooting and ball control.

In the end, every player will become a good professional because, provided they remember that they should give 100 per cent effort, they will get a game in anybody's team.

At the end of not just this successful season but my three-year period at The Dell, which is a good time to judge any manager I can honestly say that this club is well stocked for the future. The foundations are solid, ability in comparison with other clubs is plentiful.

Honesty and dedication goes right through the dressing room where the spirit is as good as anywhere in the country.

I admit that my biggest regret is the fact that we were relegated at the end of the last season with the club but the playing staff now shows just about a 95 per cent change from then and should the club return to the First Division in 12 months' time, no one will be more pleased than me.

Although we were relegated our gates since then have not varied a great deal, proof that we are playing the type of football which supporters wish to return to see on a regular basis. I honestly believe that the future looks good.

Hundreds of letters have poured into my office in the last few weeks offering the club best wishes and I can only extend my own heartfelt thanks and best wishes to those supporters and the many new friends we have made.

I ask everyone to continue with their worthwhile support next season when a lot more will be expected from the team, especially after their appearance at Wembley today.

Cherries mean to ape Lincoln

By BOB HARRISON

AFC BOURNEMOUTH are determined next year to emulate their most recent opponents, Lincoln City, who finished as champions with record goals and points—111 and 74. The Cherries were reminded this week that Lincoln missed promotion by 0.04 of a goal in 1975, but sustained their drive through the following year to carry all before them.

Bournemouth have been on the fringe of promotion most of the season, but eventually had to concede that this was not their year and settle for a "reasonable" sixth place.

They wrapped up the season with a 1-1 draw at Dean

Court against Lincoln; who ended their season with an unbeaten run of 14 games, scored more goals than any team for nine years, and beat Doncaster Rovers' 1947 total of 72 points.

There were several good reasons for Lincoln's success: not least their teamwork, application, determination, scoring—Ward 29, Freeman 25 and eight, times and tens from midfield men—and their away form.

Bournemouth would have been in a happier frame of mind with an away record that reads: W11 D8 L4, F40, A24.

EVER-PRESENT

Bournemouth's top scoring position was shared by young strikers Howard Goddard and Kevin Reeves, with 14 goals; and it was Reeves who got the equaliser against Lincoln three minutes after Ward had notched his 29th.

Only one player was ever-present, Neil Hague; he had to retire because of injury. Clive Payne, Billy Steele and Steve Grapes returned to Norwich after a month on loan; Steve Chalk made his debut while another goalkeeper, David Best, moved on to manage Doncaster; Geoff Butler and Phil Ashworth were signed during the season.

Finally came the decision of player-manager John Benson to play again. He had half-a-dozen appearances this season, but intends to turn out regularly next season—as a sweeper.

POMPEY RELY ON ANCELL

By PETER EAST

AN AGEING Scot who was respected as something of a maestro when it came to finding talented footballers is now keeping an eye out for new men who could help lift Portsmouth off the floor.

In his heyday as manager of Motherwell, Bobby Ancell snapped up stream of skillful young players and probably the best-known of them was Ian St. John, who went on to be one of Liverpool's great players before becoming Pompey manager.

Several others who were guided into football by Ancell made their way through to the top flight in English football.

One of the big names in Scottish football, Dixie Deans, who will be playing for Glasgow Celtic against Portsmouth at Fratton Park on May 19, was also snapped up as a youngster by the shrewd Ancell.

Ancell is just one of a small group of men scanning the Scottish scene in the hope they will find the right type of youngster, and doing it for nothing.

NO MONEY

"We'd like to pay these people for the work they are doing in Scotland, but there's no money available and they accept it," said Pompey assistant manager Billy Hunter.

The Scots also have to accept the fact that the players they are looking for will have to be unknowns whose clubs are not asking a fee. There's no money for Pompey to pump into the transfer market either.

In fact, the lack of cash at Fratton Park has meant that the man who has done so much work with coaching for Pompey in the last three years is now looking for a job.

Pat Wright's contract as coach expired last night and, when contracts run out at Portsmouth these days, the word "renewal" is virtually out of the question.

Not surprisingly, he is saddened by the fact that Pompey have shown a lack of appreciation for his efforts.

But the man who first came south from the Midlands as player-manager in the Waterlooville set-up which was then geared to providing youngsters for Portsmouth said: "I'd rather talk about what I achieved than what I think of the club's decision."

"Waterlooville won the Hampshire League and Hampshire Senior Cup when I was there and they haven't really won anything since. On top of that, we did provide Pompey with two players—goalkeeper Phil Higgins and full-back Peter Ellis—who are now in the first team and that must surely have paid for the system," he said.

On another sad note, I heard this week that Pompey have dispensed also with the services of their odd-job man around the ground.

That could mean that the days of waterlogged seats and soggy notebooks in the Press Box will be extended still further as it seems there is no one to mend the leak in the roof.

And just one more unhappy little point: while it was nice to see the club make a gesture with a testimonial match against Leicester for Malcolm

Manley, who has been put out of football by injury, things could have been handled more graciously.

The game attracted a crowd of 3,218 who paid nearly of £2,000. That should be a great help to Manley, who is now looking for a job outside football; but, before the match, the teams lined the middle of the pitch and there should have been a pre-match celebration.

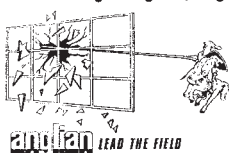
But all that happened was that poor Manley was left to walk out alone from the tunnel, to go through the motions of shaking hands with all the players and then make a lonely walk back.

One would have thought that either Pompey's chairman John Deacon, manager Ian St. John or secretary Jimmy Dickinson could have accompanied the player to give the ceremony just a little more substance.

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Brian Hayward

WITH THE SAINTS

Channon deserves a bumper turn-out

AWAY DISASTER

Players must prove quality on the pitch



MIKE CHANNON... world-class.

MIKE CHANNON... world-class.

SAINTS face another season in the Second Division because of their disastrous away form — just 11 points from 21 games — but their failure to win promotion can be traced, with even greater accuracy, to four matches in particular.

I am talking about the visits to Orient (November 15), Blackburn Rovers (January 28), York City (February 28) and Plymouth Argyle (April 16). Saints gained just one point from the four matches, but they were in a position to win them all. Even six points out of the eight would have been sufficient to take them up.

Let me take a close look at the four games:

Orient — Saints were beaten 2-1 after being given the lead by Jim McCalliog in the eighth minute. And it should all have been wrapped up immediately after half-time, but Peter Osgood missed a simple chance. So, instead of victory, Saints were beaten by a slice of bad luck and an own goal. The misfortune came when Gerry Queen scored an equaliser with his arm and a rush of blood saw Peter Rodrigues head into his own goal.

Blackburn — This was a 1-1 draw, but again Saints were first to score — a goal by Osgood after ten minutes. And Saints then had enough chances to win comfortably, but they were not taken and

Bobby Syarc came up with an equaliser 20 minutes from time.

York — Saints went into this game unbeaten over 16 matches, but they played badly, perhaps thinking about the Cup quarter-final at Bradford a week thence. Micky Cave gave York the lead, but all seemed set fair for Saints when Mike Channon levelled the scores five minutes before half-time. Saints then had enough chances to win comfortably, but they missed them, made a mistake in defence and were beaten by Paul Hinch's 87th minute goal.

Plymouth — Saints needed to win this Good Friday game to stay in the promotion hunt, but a combination of missed chances and excellent goal-

keeping by Jim Funnell denied them. Then Saints were sunk by Peter Darke's goal eight minutes from time.

Significant

The significance of those four games is now painfully obvious; Saints were in a position to win them all and the failure to do so has a consequence that will last at least one season.

The home record has been phenomenal — just four points dropped all season — and that makes missing promotion so much harder to bear. Only Sunderland had a better home points return, collecting 40 to Saints' 38, but their away record, although not good, was better — 16 points against Saints' 11.

Bristol City and West Bromwich Albion, promoted also, fared less well than Saints at home, collecting 29 points apiece. But both clubs picked up 24 away points, more than double Saints' miserable total.

Even relegated Oxford picked up one more away point than Saints, while bottom-of-the-table Portsmouth matched their Hampshire neighbours on 11 points.

It must be particularly galling for manager Lawrie McMenemy, who has built an attractive goal-scoring team. On top of their form, Saints were probably the best side in the division — I know many football writers who think so — but this could not be said of the performances in the majority of away games.

Real problem

Saints scored fewer away goals than any other team in the league, and that is a problem. They also conceded far too many. And that was the real problem. You can score two or even three goals, as Saints did at Blackpool, and there is no guarantee of a point, but keep a clean sheet and you must get one. Saints did this in only four away games this season.

The great Cup run has compensated fans for League disappointment, but the manager will certainly not be happy until First Division status is regained. Can this be achieved next season?

I believe it all depends on the defensive record; you cannot lose 13 away games and expect to go up. Somehow defensive stability must be built, either from within or without, and if this is done then I think Saints will have a good chance.

Yet next season could be more difficult. There may be greater opposition from the relegated clubs than came this season from Carlisle, Luton and Chelsea, while Bolton will again be a force. And Chelsea, with their youngsters more experienced by a season, could really be major challengers.

So many people agree that Saints possess players who should be in the First Division; now it is up to them to prove it on the pitch.



PETER RODRIGUES... Saints' skipper in a successful season.

SAINTS—Facts and Figures

1975	Result	Scorers	Gate	Lge. pos.
August				
16 WEST BROM. ALB. (h)	3-0	Holmes, Channon 2	15,246	—
23 Notts County (a)	0-0		8,495	6
26 BRISTOL CITY (h)	3-1	Stokes 2, Peach	16,833	1
29 PLYMOUTH ARGYLE (h)	1-0	Channon	16,036	1
September				
6 Bolton Wanderers (a)	0-3		9,188	3
9 BRISTOL ROVERS (h)	2-1		10,757	—
12 BLACKBURN ROVERS (h)	2-1	Stokes, Peach	13,279	2
20 Blackpool (a)	3-4	Rodrigues, Steele, Holmes	9,564	6
27 PORTSMOUTH (h)	4-0	Channon 3, Peach	17,310	6
October				
4 Hull City (a)	0-0			
11 CHELSEA (h)	4-1	Channon 2, (1 pen.), Stokes	5,342	6
18 Nottingham Forest (a)	1-3	Holmes	21,227	8
21 Gillingham (a)	2-3	Osgood	12,577	8
25 YORK CITY (h)	2-0	Holmes 2	11,219	8
31 Charlton Athletic (a)	1-4	McCalliog	13,501	7
November				
8 LUTON TOWN (h)	3-1	McCalliog, Stokes, Channon	13,665	7
15 Orient (a)	1-2	McCalliog	6,332	9
22 NOTTM. FOREST (h)	0-3		14,245	11
29 Carlisle United (a)	0-1		6,977	12
December				
6 SUNDERLAND (h)	4-0	Osgood 2, Holmes, Blyth	17,598	11
13 NOTTS COUNTY (h)	2-1	McCalliog (pen.)	12,571	9
19 West Bromwich Albion (a)	2-0	Holmes	17,071	4
26 BRISTOL ROVERS (h)	3-0	Peach, Channon	16,556	4
27 Oxford United (a)	2-1	Holmes, Stokes, Channon	12,004	4
1976				
January				
3 ASTON VILLA (h) (FA Cup 3)	1-1	Fisher	24,138	—
7 ASTON VILLA (a) (FA Cup 3 replay)	0-1	McCalliog 2	44,623	—
17 BOLTON WANDERERS (h) (FA Cup 4)	2-0	Channon 2	20,363	7
24 BLACKPOOL (h) (FA Cup 4)	3-1	Stokes	21,553	—
28 Blackburn Rovers (a)	1-1	Osgood	8,788	8
31 OLDHAM ATHLETIC (h)	3-2	Osgood, Stokes, Channon	14,294	6
February				
7 Bristol City (a)	1-1	Holmes	22,318	8
14 West Bromwich Alb. (a)	1-1	Stokes	36,834	—
17 WEST BROM ALB. (h) (FA Cup 5 replay)	4-0	Channon 3 (1 pen.), Gilchrist	27,614	—
21 ORIENT (h)	3-0	McCalliog 2 (1 pen.), Stokes	17,330	—
24 FULHAM (h)	2-1	Blyth, Channon	23,575	4
28 York City (a)	1-2	Channon	3,777	6
March				
2 Luton Town (a)	0-1		13,737	—
6 Bradford C. (a)	1-0	McCalliog	14,195	5
9 Fulham (h)	0-1		8,731	6
13 Chelsea (a)	1-1	Channon	29,911	7
20 CARLISLE UNITED (h)	1-1	Peach	16,304	5
27 Sunderland (a)	0-3		34,946	7
April				
3 Crystal Palace (FA Cup semi-final)	2-0	Gilchrist, Peach	52,810	—
6-Portsmouth (a)	1-0	Channon	24,115	—
10 BLACKPOOL (h)	3-1	Holmes, Channon	21,758	5
12-CHARLTON ATH. (h)	3-2	Peach, Channon 2	23,686	5
16 Plymouth Argyle (a)	0-1	McCalliog	25,905	5
17 Bristol Rovers (a)	0-2	C. Clarke o.g.	18,870	5
19 OXFORD UNITED (h)	2-1	Rodrigues, Stokes	18,272	5
24 HULL CITY (h)	1-0			
May				
1 MANCHESTER UNITED (FA Cup Final)				

McGrath can't sit back for too long

SAINTS A have won the Hampshire Senior Cup and could well finish third in Hampshire League Division 2 but for youth team coach John McGrath, this is just the icing on the cake, writes Bob Brunsell.

The big Lancaster, scourge of many a centre-forward when he wore The No. 5 shirt of Bury, New-castle and Saints, measures success not by results in the Hampshire League but on how quickly his youngsters graduate out of the A side.

And with nine of his youngsters now appearing regularly in the Reserves one of them, Steve Williams, has played in the first team — McGrath can bask in the satisfaction of a successful season.

But he is obviously proud of the A side's victory over Waterlooville in last week's Hampshire Senior Cup Final.

"It is a good side now and all the kids want to play in it. It has got to the stage where every player knows he has a specific job to do and he gets on and does it."

"I've switched players about because it broadens their outlook on the game — realising the job their other team mates have to do. But above all my job is to encourage the skill factor within the framework of a team."

"We pay as much attention to skill as we do to tactics. The boys even read up the laws of the game to make them better all-round players."

"Perhaps the toughest thing is getting the right attitude in the minds of youngsters. They might have skill but it's no good without determination. Next season, we'll have a new crop of apprentice professionals. That means tougher competition for places and inevitably we'll be looking for higher standards from players," says McGrath.

McGrath is now completing his third season as youth team coach and he has certainly responded to the challenge of his job.

"I find it tremendously rewarding. Seeing so many boys developing on the right lines gives me tremendous satisfaction and I was very moved when the kids clubbed together and bought me an expensive clock for Christmas. That typifies the spirit among the younger players at The Dell."



JOHN MCGRATH...

can bask in satisfaction.

It should be a great night — the Cup finalists against the present First Division leaders, who will not know whether they are champions until Wolves have played Liverpool next Tuesday. Both Saints and Rangers are teams who place a premium on appearances and won 32 in England caps. The quality of his play has earned him many hours of enjoyment for thousands of Saints fans and he deserves a bumper testimonial. Channon, like Terry Paine before him, is something special.



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Page 4 SPORTS ECHO — Saturday, May 1, 1978

Waddington mits at three up, three down

FOOTBALL LEAGUE clubs are ready and willing to go back to two up and two down in the promotion and relegation stakes, according to a discreet poll of clubs in the top two divisions conducted by Stoke City. Tony Waddington, manager of the Potteries club, revealed this to me this week as we looked on a season that has been one of frustration for Stoke, but achievement for English football.

Said the First Division's longest-serving manager: "We have lobbied practically all the clubs over promotion and relegation and there is a substantial majority wanting to go back to the old system."

"I think it has been proved

without a shadow of doubt this season that three up and three down has done nothing but harm for the game.

"But unfortunately the system is likely to stay because of the Second Division clubs

who see one extra chance of getting into the top flight. "What they don't seem to realise is that, if they have an extra chance of moving into the First Division, they also have an extra chance of dropping into the Third."

"Added Mr. Waddington: "The game has taken a step forward this season in that more teams are playing open football. And this has happened in spite of the deterrent that people in the game have thrust upon themselves by voting for three up and three down."

★

For Mr. Waddington, a crusader of open, attacking football and a man who has gambled more than most on bringing skill into his sides, the result of a change in the patterns of promotion and relegation has been to give an additional layer of savagery to the game.

He claims: "Nobody wants to see desperate football. It detracts from the spectacle from the entertainment value. And scratching about for points never added any charm or excitement even to a game of football. The game was competitive enough before, and this change was not necessary and probably one of the most harmful things done in the last decade."

Would Stoke make a point of this or try to move back to two up and down at the Football League's annual meeting in midsummer? "If we thought there was a chance of success we certainly would, but the three-quarters majority needed would probably make it a fruitless exercise," replied Mr. Waddington.

And in any case, after the frustrations of this season, which has seen Stoke so near

yet so far from success, Mr. Waddington prefers to plan for next season rather than use up his energies tilting at windmills on behalf of other people.

Looking back, he says: "I thought we had a good Wembley chance but domestic problems over Alan Hudson and Mike Peck cost us dear and we were lost to Sunderland in the Cup."

"Then, after starting the season knowing we were a bit short up front, we lost both John Ritchie and Terry Conroy, to make the position virtually impossible."

"It says much for the ability of the side that we stayed in contention for the First Division title for so long."

Although Stoke have now pulled themselves back into a sound financial position after spending so heavily on men like Salmons, Shilton and Hudson, the general economic problems are such that the game has a lot of difficulties ahead.

Reasons Mr. Waddington: "This means there will be more players released than ever this season. The economic climate, plus the spectre of the new freedom of contract will lead to clubs cutting down tremendously."

"I feel that, in campaigning for this totally unnecessary freedom of contract, the FA has done the wrong thing for their own members. A limited number of star players will benefit by the new legislation but the rank and file members will suffer because there will be fewer jobs available for them."

"The retained lists issued this summer will show a backslide in the link between the rank and file and the top players, and it will certainly lead to fewer jobs going in the game."

Peter Keeling's
MAN OF THE MOMENT
TONY
WADDINGTON

WILLIAMS NEW BOSS AT RYDE

THE RYDE SPORTS MANAGERSHIP issue — subject to selection since player-manager Pat Brown announced his impending departure two months ago — is settled.

At this week's club committee meeting it was decided to appoint Roger Williams, who has been in charge of the Reds for the last few matches, since relegation to the Hampshire League Division 3 became certain.

It had been known that former Newport manager Roy Shiner, who has been in charge of Island League Senior this season, had a soft spot for his old club. Former manager Don Evans had shown interest; and another former man in charge, Ernie Ramage, had been tipped by some to apply.

But Evans and Ramage were ruled out, anyway by Ryde's "all-Wight" policy begun before the start of the season in a bid to increase support, and Mr. Shiner did not apply.

EASIER TASK
Consequently, the name of Mr. Williams was the only one considered at the committee meeting and they gave him unanimous backing.

Mr. Williams is to stick to the Island-only policy that led to the first team's relegation and the humiliating Island League Division 1 results of the relegated Reserves.

But he admits his task is easier than that of his predecessor, who had to build two sides from scratch in a short time. He now has a nucleus.

"I hope most of the old players on which to build and the hopes they will stay with the club. Reserves will be signing

again. There is a lot of good there on the youth side. With a few more experienced players, they can hold their own in Division 2."

He hoped, too, that most of the present first team, bolstered by a few new players, could stay. Ryde had a good ground and facilities, an active supporters' organisation and a clubhouse. If the club started winning matches again, the supporters who had drifted away would return to Parklands.

GIVEN HOPE
Mr. Williams, whose assistant is to be Tony Valvona, thought there was now a good committee, which could be improved still further by the addition of a few more members.

He had been particularly pleased in recent games with the consistency of defender Brian Hayward, who had only played a handful of Hampshire League matches. He was hoping for a win next Saturday away to Fareham Reserves.

Former Beading Town player Mr. Williams hopes to make the Ryde first team next season. But this depends on the result of specialist tests on a knee injury that has ruled him out of the side during the current campaign.



SOUTHAMPTON Sunday League President Mr. Al Miller presents his J. Miller Trophy to Old Shirley's winning captain Brian Read.

It was Read's penalty which put his side back in the match after a high ball into Old Shirley's

penalty area had put North Stoneham ahead after 54 minutes.

The winning goal came ten minutes from time by centre-forward Bobby Whit. Pictured between Mr. Miller and Brian Read are League chairman Roy McOrney and secretary Roger Hawkins.

A THRILLER writer could not have thought up a more tense climax to the season for Cowes and East Cowes Vics. To avoid relegation to the Hampshire League Division 2, Cowes must take a point from their last match of the season against the already-relegated Fleet at Westwood next Saturday.

But if the Yachtsmen lose they will go down and the Vics, who have already completed their fixtures, will be saved by virtue of marginally superior goal average.

The setting for this dramatic finale followed the 3-0 home defeat of Cowes by Fareham, and the 2-1 defeat of Fleet by Netley Central, results that kept a survival lifeline open for the Vics.

Incidentally, whether it is Cowes or the Vics who stay up, colleague Peter Hall and I feel they will owe us a celebratory pint as, for the second time this season, we have managed to put the record straight at Hampshire FA headquarters. Again, our double-checking

had a direct bearing on the relegation issue because, as a result of a genuine misunderstanding, Fleet were recorded as having beaten Netley Central.

That meant that, according to the official records, the North Hampshire side were still in with a chance of escaping going down.

While Cowes and the Vics wait anxiously, Brading supporters are looking forward to the top goal of the season for football at Vicarage Lane, next season.

As they showed in holding Newport to a goalless extra-time draw in the Island Senior Cup final, Brading are ready for the top goal. Only a goal-line clearance by Newport defender Jeff Austin denied Brading victory.

But manager Reg Langdon, who has proved such a tailor-made successor to the redoubtable Hugh Squibb, has no doubt promotion will be his most prized possession this season.

"That is our No. 1 priority," he told me, but naturally he will be delighted if Brading can make it a hat-trick by

winning the Hampshire Intermediate Cup and the Island Senior Cup.

Langdon is also a realist and he plans to strengthen his squad in preparation for the tough time ahead next season. As Cowes and the Vics know well, there is a big difference between the Hampshire Divisions 1 and 2.

Brading can thank their neighbours, Ryde Sports, for easing the crucial last stage of the promotion battle.

Although doomed to Division 3 Sports achieved one of the best results of the season in holding Hampshire Senior Cup winners and promotion contenders, Saints A, to a goalless draw.

As the season draws to a close, Sandown are counting their blessings instead of pounding unwelcome ears with hard-luck stories.

Manager Peter Groves said: "I suppose like most clubs we've had our difficult spells with injuries and other setbacks, but taking things in round we've done a lot better

than most people thought we would."

"With just a bit of luck we might have finished higher up the table. Our main achievement has been to lay down the foundations of a happy and successful club."

Mr. Groves added: "Another achievement has been the promotion of the Reserve side into Division 1 of the Island League. This is going to make a big difference when it comes to attracting talent next season and also free us from restrictive rules that have tied us down regarding the use of Reserve players."

Secretary Ken Hatcher is sure Sandown fortunes are now on the upswing. "This is largely due to the enthusiasm of Peter Groves and also of Brian Arnold, who runs the Reserve side. Both are well-liked by players and this counts for a lot."

Mr. Hatcher said: "The outlook at Fairway Park is brighter all round than it has been for a good many seasons."

On the financial side, club funds received a welcome boost through the visit of a Portsmouth XI to Fairway Park last Sunday for a friend-

ly against a side of Island Managers. After clearing expenses, we should finish up with around £75," said Mr. Hatcher.

Since quitting the professional scene, the bank overdraft at Sandown has sunk rapidly. "With special summer promotions and a promised return visit by Pompey, we should start with a clean slate next season," said Mr. Hatcher.

Economy will be the order of the day at Church Litten next season. Chairman Ray Dew has carried out a survey of Newport's running costs and this week the committee approved his suggested cuts.

Mr. Dew declined to comment whether these would have any effect on the amount paid to players.

Having completed a successful deal a few months ago, which resulted in URM leasing part of the Church Litten ground, he and his committee are determined that, now the club is on its financial feet again, it should not run into debt.

"To avoid that happening we have to cut our coat according to our cloth," he stressed. Newport will kick off next season on August 7 with an attractive home fixture against Isthmian side Leatherhead.

MAYBUSH WIN VIKING



MAYBUSH HOTEL, pictured after winning the Commercial Houses Sunday League's top knock-out competition, the Viking Cup.

Company 4-1 in the final with goals by John Turner, Mick Dear, Angus Steele and Wayne Bath. I. Steele: front row: M. Hall, P. Wilson, M. Moody, N. Hughes, K. Williams, M. Dack (captain), M. Dear, A. Steel, J. Turner, A. Missebrook, M. Chafe after being a goal down at the interval.



The Weston Park under-16 squad have won the Boss Chorrington Trophy and the Duncan and Prevett Cup this season, and are Hampshire's representatives in the National Schools Trophy.

Pictured are (left to right) — back row: S. Bywater (manager), S. Jones, N. Jackman, A. Kendal, M. Reed, T. Campbell; front row: R. Oliphant, P. Conroy, W. Bowers, R. Eastmond (capt), D. Kimber, S. Squibb.

ISLE OF WIGHT ROUND-UP

with Maurice Leppard

Cowes last act worthy of thriller writer

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Looking at the Southern League

Hughes prepares his blueprint

SALISBURY'S blueprint for promotion next season should be completed within the next week or two as manager Mike Hughes wraps up his dealings in the transfer market.

He is currently waiting for an answer from two players he has had his sights on for some time, and if their reply is "No" he has three others lined up in reserve.

Hughes has also run the rule over two of Weymouth's list of axed players, Dave Verity and Kevin Foster, both of whom were in action at Victoria Park in Monday's Floodlight League match.

His search is being concentrated on the midfield department of his team, but his need for a new defender to

replace Glen Stride may be solved much closer to home. For Mick O'Connor, the young defender who has not been offered a contract for next season following a year wrecked by injury, has really impressed manager Hughes since his comeback. He has been playing really well since he came back into the team. "I haven't seen anybody better so I might well keep him after all," said Mr. Hughes.

But, while the manager concentrates on the delicate

business of negotiating for new professionals, Salisbury secretary Derek Sharp is hoping the club can unearth another couple of gems from the local leagues for next season.

"What I am hoping is that, because of our successful season and the way Dave Selby and Bobby Andrews have come in and made the first team, others will come forward," he said.

"There must be others around who are as good as these two were last season. If



MICK O'CONNOR

we could get another midfielder like Selby and a striker like Andrews out of the district we would be in a good position."

Salisbury's tremendous season in Division I South of the Southern League means that for the first time in five years, they will have a positive voice at the league's annual meeting this summer.

OUTSTANDING

They will attend as full members because they finished above mid-table, and will be entitled to a vote in their own right instead of a minor voice as associate members.

With the season at an end, it is an appropriate time to choose a player of the season. But, while the brilliant Alan Green has deservedly grabbed the headlines and the praise for scoring 54 goals, the foundation-stone of the team's successes, I would tentatively relegate him to second place.

For my outstanding performer in this outstanding season for the Wilshire club has been a man who has scored only six goals and who was being written off as a lost cause. He is, of course, the centre-half Dave Hibberd.

The stocky former Andover man has been a revelation this season with a string of tremendous displays at the heart of Salisbury's defence, and his consistency and strength were major factors in helping the team to recover so well from their gloomy start to the season.

Says Mr. Hughes: "A lot of people were saying Dave was a year ago, but he knuckled down to it well. He went out to get himself fit, worked very hard and lost weight."

"The same goes for Barry Fitch. They both were far harder than I expected them to be and they have both come through really well and had a good season."

The curtain comes down on the season next week when Yeovil Town visit the Park on Monday in the Floodlight League. Then Salisbury travel to Hush the following night for the return.

AFTER BUILD-UP, YOU REALISE CUP FINAL IS ANOTHER GAME

A FEW weeks ago I received the most important telephone call in my refereeing career. It was from the Football Association informing me that I had been chosen to referee the final of the Challenge Vase at Wembley Stadium.

To receive one of the three major appointments from the governing body at the end of the season naturally takes one feel highly delighted. So I can well imagine how Clive Thomas felt when he was contacted about today's game.

Quite rightly, much publicity is given to the teams in their build-up to the great occasion, but what of the man selected to officiate at the Mecca of football? Having just experienced such preparation, and knowing it will be exactly the same for Clive, I thought it might be interesting to relate the details.

Within a few days of having the initial information, confirmation is received in writing from Mr. Croker, the F.A. Secretary. The letter also contains the do's and don'ts, which includes possible advances by football manufacturers and suppliers of kit. These matters are handled entirely by the F.A.

IN LUXURY

You will no doubt have noticed that the officials for Cup finals are immaculately turned out in brand new kit. This is provided for by one of the well known manufacturers with the approval of the Football Association, under the condition that the publicity rights are granted to the makers.

Luxury hotel accommodation is also arranged together with travel details. You may think all this has to do with the big day. Oh no, to me it meant many hours of extra training. I had read, heard and seen what the hallowed turf of Wembley had done in the past; and I did not want to be caught by either cramp or tiredness. It proved worthwhile in my case; for both teams in the Vase final were effected by cramp, but fortunately I escaped such pain.

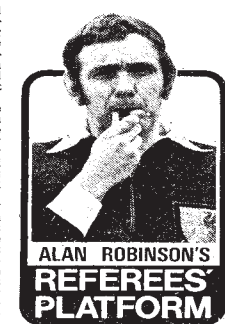
However, I did feel both mentally and physically tired on the Sunday, a thing I do not normally suffer from during the season.

CELEBRITIES

I was speaking of the Taylor about this, and his theory is that the turf problem is a security one. He believes that both referee and players give that extra amount of effort on such an important occasion, and suffer accordingly.

So, to the weekend in question on the Friday evening, the F.A. Cup officials are conducted to the restaurant for lunch. How any one can eat a three-course meal on such an occasion baffles me! However, the soup was very nice!

Afterwards, there is a walk over the illustrious turf



ALAN ROBINSON'S REFEREE'S PLATFORM

celebrities and representatives from refereeing bodies all over the world.

The referee and his linesmen are expected to make short speeches, and quite a few have told me that in their opinion this is a worse ordeal than stepping out at Wembley. Meanwhile, the wags of the officials are entertained at a London show.

On Saturday morning, you have to report at the F.A. offices by 11 where the necessary expense forms are completed and you are given a booklet containing the programme of arrangements. On reading through it you can immediately see that everything is timed and planned to the last detail.

ROMANTIC After about 20 minutes a chauffeur-driven car arrives to transport the officials and the F.A. Referees' Secretary to the stadium. This gentleman, Mr. Reg Paine, acts as liaison officer throughout the whole proceedings, looking after every whim and fancy of the referee.

Despite the drive only lasting about a quarter of an hour, you do not pay much attention to the beauty of Shepherd's Bush, Harlesden and other romantic places on the trip—one is too aware of the game.

The car is driven right up to the players' entrance where special passes have to be shown. This practice continues wherever you go to within the stadium, for security is most strict. After placing our bags in the dressing-room, the officials are conducted to the restaurant for lunch. How any one can eat a three-course meal on such an occasion baffles me! However, the soup was very nice!

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which is essential for acclimatisation, and to settle the nerves a bit. On returning to the dressing-room, the officials usually find letters and telegrams from well-wishers awaiting them. This brought a lump to my throat, knowing that friends were thinking of me on my day of days.

At 1.45, the F.A.'s meticulous timetable swings into operation, when the band take the field. Following another walk on the pitch, it is time to start changing. While this is going on, the match ball together with two spares, and the linesmen's flags are brought to the dressing-room.

The officials' accommodation at Wembley is rather disappointing compared with that of the teams. It is quite small, with more washbasins and toilets than showers, and no bath. There is a call at 2.45 for the players, managers, referee and linesmen to assemble in the tunnel ready to emerge on to the playing area. Obviously, everyone is keyed up and anxious to be on the move, and at the given signal the cavalcade commences its walk to the centre.

However big the crowd might be, whatever the game, the roar which greets the procession brings in its wake maximum emotional impact and full realisation of the event and its responsibilities.

The teams and officials line up as detailed in the special booklet, and presentations to the players are made, followed by the playing of the national anthem. Then out to the guides for the toss-and up, after making sure the referee is seated in the royal box, the referee can start the match. After a few moments, comes the realisation that it is yet another game of football being played under the same laws as the last.

The same laws as the last match on the village green. With the final whistle comes the presentation of the Cup and medals, and as the winners parade on their lap of honour the officials melt away into the dressing-room. Incidentally, the match ball is given to the captain of the winning team.

On a Cup final day, the clubs hold celebrations at separate hotels in the West End; and it is customary for the officials and their wives to attend both functions.

For the Vase final, both teams returned home for their festivities; so, to make a fitting climax to the day, I together with the pressmen and our wives, had a wonderful meal in the centre of London.

So ended a great weekend, one which I shall never forget. I am sure Clive will have the same lasting impression of this important occasion.

Underhill will go onto attack

By ANDY LEVER

AFTER another disappointing season at the Wolfed Meadow, new manager Eric Underhill says he is going to bring back "orthodox attacking football" next year.

BASINGSTOKE ENDED UP AS 'RESPECTABLE'

BASINGSTOKE TOWN can look back at the past season quite favourably, for they finish their Southern League programme averaging a point a match and finish in a respectable position in the top half of the table.

Considering the ups and downs the club have gone through since the start, this is satisfactory, for, after only seven league matches, had been played and seven points gained late in October, Cliff Huxford, the team manager, was forced by financial reasons to resign.

Before another match was to release the two Army players, John Robson and Bobby played, the manager was relieved of his duties and Tom Davies, the general manager, took over team selection as well as his other duties.

Chris Scott was the next to go. This was due to having to go the wage bill to help pay for the crippling £5,000 tax bill the club were ordered to pay within 12 months.

The next blow to the club's hopes of a bid for promotion and a good cup run came when Keith Smith, their only winger, broke his leg; which meant he was out for the rest of the season.

The team were knocked out of the FA Cup by Southwick 2-1, but had quite a successful run in the FA Trophy, only to be knocked out at Hendon in the first round proper 6-1.

After winning four good points against Folkestone away and Dorchester at home in December, the team were in a striking position for the top of the table, there came the loss of the manager, and on Boxing Day, when goal-keeper Kelvin Hopkins failed to arrive.

This led to his suspension from the club and the recall of Pat Rafferty from Mullards, and Rafferty has been playing with credit ever since. It was defeats against Watford and Middlesbrough in February that started the decline—the 3-0 defeat was the first at home all season.

HOPES OVER

Tom Davies was beginning to have to call on several young players from the North Hampshire League side and, although the manager is the first to sing their praises, the results were just not coming their way.

In March and April, 11 League matches were played; but two victories, five draws and four defeats meant their hopes of promotion were over, and they were also to go out of the final of the Hampshire Senior League Cup in the semi-final.

The Reserves, however, have been a great success and, besides providing the first team with capable replacements, have won the North Hampshire League Division 2 and are in the final of the North Hampshire Senior League Cup.

Simon Edwards, who did many years valuable service at fullback for Basingstoke, has brought together a good side, mostly from the Basingstoke League; and, besides doing a fine job as team manager, has also played the occasional game when short of players.

business of negotiating for new professionals, Salisbury secretary Derek Sharp is hoping the club can unearth another couple of gems from the local leagues for next season.

"What I am hoping is that, because of our successful season and the way Dave Selby and Bobby Andrews have come in and made the first team, others will come forward," he said.

"There must be others around who are as good as these two were last season. If

we could get another midfielder like Selby and a striker like Andrews out of the district we would be in a good position."

Salisbury's tremendous season in Division I South of the Southern League means that for the first time in five years, they will have a positive voice at the league's annual meeting this summer.

With the season at an end, it is an appropriate time to choose a player of the season. But, while the brilliant Alan Green has deservedly grabbed the headlines and the praise for scoring 54 goals, the foundation-stone of the team's successes, I would tentatively relegate him to second place.

For my outstanding performer in this outstanding season for the Wilshire club has been a man who has scored only six goals and who was being written off as a lost cause. He is, of course, the centre-half Dave Hibberd.

The stocky former Andover man has been a revelation this season with a string of tremendous displays at the heart of Salisbury's defence, and his consistency and strength were major factors in helping the team to recover so well from their gloomy start to the season.

Says Mr. Hughes: "A lot of people were saying Dave was a year ago, but he knuckled down to it well. He went out to get himself fit, worked very hard and lost weight."

"The same goes for Barry Fitch. They both were far harder than I expected them to be and they have both come through really well and had a good season."

The curtain comes down on the season next week when Yeovil Town visit the Park on Monday in the Floodlight League. Then Salisbury travel to Hush the following night for the return.

However, I did feel both mentally and physically tired on the Sunday, a thing I do not normally suffer from during the season.

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BROCKENHURST'S TRIUMPH

HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE NEWS

BROCKENHURST made certain of their first Hampshire League championship last Saturday with a 1-0 win at Waterloo and among the first people to congratulate them afterwards were the men from Sholing Sports, who had to settle for runners-up position for the second year running.

A contingent from Sholing went to Waterloo hoping deep down inside that Brockenhurst just might fail to get to the top.

But things worked out well for the Neals club and although they knew they had a game on their hands, they edged to the victory they needed.

After the game, Sholing secretary Alan Taylor and others from the Birch Lawn club were quick to join in Brockenhurst's triumph and congratulate them on their effort. They are, in fact, the first village team ever to win the title.

"I'd be a hypocrite if I tried to say I wasn't sorry Brockenhurst got above us—but it

couldn't have happened to a nicer club," he said.

He added: "We have always had a lot of support from Brockenhurst and we've had some great games with them over the years. We've been very lucky to have them as a team."

Manager Jim Lawford battling away for this success for so long, it was great to see the Brockenhurst fans pick him up and carry him round the town.

Brockenhurst are planning a special celebration night at which the cup and trophy will be handed over to their skipper, that great club stalwart, Mr. J. H. Taylor.

Their club chairman Cyril Otter praised "the great support from everyone in the village" in helping the club

reach their greatest moment in Hampshire football.

It was 75 years ago that Brockenhurst were formed as a little New Forest League club.

From those humble beginnings they have worked their way up through the Hampshire League and for the past five years have been a force in Division 1.

They have always maintained that honesty-goodness-hard-tackling village soccer image and have, at the same time, been able to preserve an excellent record in terms of misconduct—or, rather, the lack of it.

The championship could not have come at a better time, for Jim Lawford had announced that this would be his last season as manager. He will start with the club he has served as player, committee man and manager for over 45 years.

Brockenhurst have worked mainly with a basis of 13 players for their first team. Trevor Clark, has been a

regular and reliable goal-keeper, while Jim Needham, John Harris, Ian Ferrett and Bill Paramore have made up the back four.

Newcomer, Mickey Ackling, who was previously captain of Wiltshire, has joined forces in the middle with Brian McQuinn, Keiron O'Donnell, Steve Lawford and John Hannam and the strikers have been led by the British champion Dave Dear, Malcolm Renyard and Bobby Buck.

★ Warsash have enjoyed another successful season and are strongly tipped as one of the clubs who could be knocking on the door to Division 1 next year.

They are likely to finish fourth in Division 2; a satisfactory performance considering this is only their second season at that level.

Team manager, Trevor Turner must look back ruefully to a bleak pre-Christmas spell in which one side failed to collect

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- 5 GCSE's at grade C or above, including English and Maths
- An interest in coaching, teaching or leading physical activities

RICHARD TAUNTON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Saints
FOUNDATION



HAMPSHIRE SOCCER TALK

by Peter East

FORMS ARE BOUND TO HAVE ERRORS

WELL OVER a thousand soccer clubs throughout Hampshire will be compiling their annual registration forms which have to be returned every summer to the county football association's offices in Southampton, and it is certain that some of those forms will be wrongly completed.

The only uncertainty concerns the actual number of mistakes which will be made between now and July 1, the deadline for return of the forms.

But sorting out incorrect forms has been an annual pastime for Hampshire F.A. officials and the matter reached a peak last year when the number of mistakes threw the Sunday cups into chaos.

One of the most common errors of the past has been that junior clubs who play on Sundays have been put into Hampshire Saturday cups simply because they have not made it clear which cup they wanted to enter.

PRECAUTIONS

Another is that they have failed to state which division of a particular league they play in and that has resulted in their going into a cup of the wrong status; A instead of B or vice-versa.

This summer, the Hampshire F.A. are hoping clubs will get it right and they have taken special precautions in order to help ease the problem.

First, they have the word "Sunday" in red on the form and "Saturday" in black; so that, when the inapplicable word has been deleted, there will be a colour guide for officials to follow.

Second, but equally important, is the fact that there will be close liaison between the Hampshire F.A. and the leagues—or sanctioned competitions, as they are known in official terms—just in case a club gains more promotion than it expects.

AT FINGER-TIPS

Some league secretaries will check the entries of their teams against the constitution of their leagues to ensure the form is completed when the cup committee prepare the lists for the draws to be made.

It would be nice if all were able to do this, while another thing which could help would be for all leagues to send their constitutions in to the Hampshire F.A. when they are finalised.

In that way, someone in an official position would have the full picture at his fingertips and the problems of the past could be reduced if not banished.

Other problems for the Hampshire officials are caused when clubs make late changes, the Hampshire F.A. being notified of their local competition or, in some cases, neither.

OVERLOOKED If a secretary leaves a club after completing a form and sending it to the county headquarters, the Hampshire F.A. must be informed. Otherwise,

all correspondence from Hampshire to the club is not sent directly to the new secretary.

Changes of club colours are sometimes made at a late hour, too, and this can cause trouble if the details of the changes are not made clearly. The same applies to information concerning a club's pitch.

Another point often overlooked is the fact that a club are required to supply the Hampshire F.A. with the name and address of either their chairman or president in addition to that of the secretary. Then, if contact with a club secretary breaks down, the Hampshire officials have an alternative in order to maintain communications.

There is also the question of sending in the money which should go with the cup entries. Some clubs send the cash but fail to complete their cup entries; while others fill in the entries but omit to send the cash.

On reflection, most of these mistakes would appear to stem from the fact that some secretaries fill their forms out in a tearing rush and make mistakes and omissions through sheer haste.

A little more thought and a little more time could save them and the county officials an awful lot of trouble at the end of the summer.

HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE TABLES

Including April 24.										
Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Points	Goal Difference	Notes
Division 1	1	7	6	57	53	40				
2	1	8	10	52	36	40				
3	1	11	6	41	30	47				
4	1	6	9	52	31	41				
5	1	8	8	56	39	34				
6	1	12	6	59	31	31				
7	1	13	4	45	33	30				
8	1	11	5	50	42	30				
9	1	10	10	49	40	37				
10	1	7	13	43	48	27				
11	1	7	15	47	44	37				
12	1	9	14	35	40	34				
13	1	10	15	38	45	34				
14	1	8	16	40	63	32				
15	1	8	15	39	66	22				
16	1	8	16	37	55	18				
17	1	5	8	31	47	47				
18	1	5	4	67	27	41				
19	1	4	10	45	38	30				
20	1	4	9	64	43	39				
21	1	4	9	48	17	36				
22	1	4	9	45	38	30				
23	1	4	9	44	30	38				
24	1	4	9	43	40	30				
25	1	4	9	42	38	32				
26	1	4	9	41	34	38				
27	1	4	9	40	34	38				
28	1	4	9	39	41	38				
29	1	4	9	38	41	38				
30	1	4	9	37	41	38				
31	1	4	9	36	41	38				
32	1	4	9	35	41	38				
33	1	4	9	34	41	38				
34	1	4	9	33	41	38				
35	1	4	9	32	41	38				
36	1	4	9	31	41	38				
37	1	4	9	30	41	38				
38	1	4	9	29	41	38				
39	1	4	9	28	41	38				
40	1	4	9	27	41	38				
41	1	4	9	26	41	38				
42	1	4	9	25	41	38				
43	1	4	9	24	41	38				
44	1	4	9	23	41	38				
45	1	4	9	22	41	38				
46	1	4	9	21	41	38				
47	1	4	9	20	41	38				
48	1	4	9	19	41	38				
49	1	4	9	18	41	38				
50	1	4	9	17	41	38				
51	1	4	9	16	41	38				
52	1	4	9	15	41	38				
53	1	4	9	14	41	38				
54	1	4	9	13	41	38				
55	1	4	9	12	41	38				
56	1	4	9	11	41	38				
57	1	4	9	10	41	38				
58	1	4	9	9	41	38				
59	1	4	9	8	41	38				
60	1	4	9	7	41	38				
61	1	4	9	6	41	38				
62	1	4	9	5	41	38				
63	1	4	9	4	41	38				
64	1	4	9	3	41	38				
65	1	4	9	2	41	38				
66	1	4	9	1	41	38				
67	1	4	9	0	41	38				
68	1	4	9	-1	41	38				
69	1	4	9	-2	41	38				
70	1	4	9	-3	41	38				
71	1	4	9	-4	41	38				
72	1	4	9	-5	41	38				
73	1	4	9	-6	41	38				
74	1	4	9	-7	41	38				
75	1	4	9	-8	41	38				
76	1	4	9	-9	41	38				
77	1	4	9	-10	41	38				
78	1	4	9	-11	41	38				
79	1	4	9	-12	41	38				
80	1	4	9	-13	41	38				
81	1	4	9	-14	41	38				
82	1	4	9	-15	41	38				
83	1	4	9	-16	41	38				
84	1	4	9	-17	41	38				
85	1	4	9	-18	41	38				
86	1	4	9	-19	41	38				
87	1	4	9	-20	41	38				
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92	1	4	9	-25	41	38				
93	1	4	9	-26	41	38				
94	1	4	9	-27	41	38				
95	1	4	9	-28	41	38				
96	1	4	9	-29	41	38				
97	1	4	9	-30	41	38				
98	1	4	9	-31	41	38				
99	1	4	9	-32	41	38				
100	1	4	9	-33	41	38				

MIDWEEK FLOODLIT LEAGUE

Group	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	Points	Goal Difference
Group A	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group B	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group C	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group D	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group E	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group F	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group G	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group H	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group I	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group J	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group K	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group L	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group M	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group N	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group O	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group P	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group Q	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group R	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group S	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group T	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group U	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group V	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group W	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group X	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group Y	1	3	1	1	6	12			
Group Z	1	3	1	1	6	12			

* One point deducted for failing an indecipherable player.

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Around the local leagues

NEW FOREST BRAMSGORE WILL GO FOR A TREBLE

NEW FOREST League Division 1 champions Bramsgore completed the second leg of their treble bid with a 3-0 win over Premier Division side BAT in the final of the Perkins Charity Cup at Lynton.

Their third title win of the season could well come in the final of the Perkins Cup when they meet Southbourne United at Ringwood next Friday.

BAT looked the stronger early on in the Perkins final, but there was no score at half-time. Then Bramsgore came forward and K. Carter put them ahead from the penalty spot. BAT continued to press but Bramsgore went further ahead through Ian Froome and R. Bond.

Meanwhile, Tatchbury clinched the Premier Division championship with three impressive victories in five days. They beat Woodlands 7-0, Brockenhurst 4-0 and Sway 9-1. Their next game was against Lynton in the Premier Cup final at Brockenhurst yesterday.

LEAGUE TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

Team	P	A	Pts
Tatchbury	24	17	43
Rehoboth	24	14	32
Lynton	24	15	30
Wotton Ath.	23	15	30
BAT	21	12	25
Woodlands	23	11	20
Bolton	24	11	19
South Coll.	21	7	14
Wotton A.	23	7	13
Wotton B.	23	7	13
Wotton C.	23	7	13
Wotton D.	23	7	13
Wotton E.	23	7	13
Wotton F.	23	7	13
Wotton G.	23	7	13
Wotton H.	23	7	13
Wotton I.	23	7	13
Wotton J.	23	7	13

DIVISION 1

Team	P	A	Pts
Bramsgore	21	9	40
B. Bolder	21	9	39
Southbourne	21	10	38
Wotton A.	21	10	37
Wotton B.	21	10	36
Wotton C.	21	10	35
Wotton D.	21	10	34
Wotton E.	21	10	33
Wotton F.	21	10	32
Wotton G.	21	10	31
Wotton H.	21	10	30
Wotton I.	21	10	29
Wotton J.	21	10	28

The Eastleigh League season was highlighted by Ensigns' title win in the second year in the competition.

Ensigns were the only side to top 100 goals in the season, but they failed to win the "Weekly News" Cup for the fourth consecutive year when they lost 2-1 to Leigh Sports.

Boys' Brigade Old Boys finished third in the league but gained consolation by beating King Alfred 3-1 in the final of the Benevolent Fund Cup.

Ged Clarke (Ensigns) won the Bert Edge Trophy for leading scorer with 35 goals.

LEAGUE TABLE						
	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ensigns	16	3	1	109	21	35
Fort Rovers	15	5	2	77	31	35
King's Brigade	15	3	2	77	31	35
King Alfred	11	5	4	65	40	27
Leigh Sports	11	2	7	84	35	24
Life Services	7	4	9	59	69	18
St. Ildord BC	7	2	10	35	67	16
IFV	5	1	14	37	89	11
St. Michael's	4	1	13	35	82	9
BRSA	3	2	14	27	82	8
Chaa-Hor's Ford	2	1	17	34	98	5

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Today's racing results

ASCOT

12.45—Garter Stakes (2-y-o), 5f.

PRIOR'S WALK ... F. Durr 1
TEDDINGTON PARK J. Mercer 2
SAUVE QUI PEUT W. Carson 3
Winner trained by R. Hannon.
SP: 4—6 fav., 9—4, 20—1.
9 ran.
Won by 1½ lengths: 4.
Total Win 16p. Places 11p. 15p.
22p. Dual forecast 23p.

1.15—Top Rank Club

Victoria Cup (Handicap), 7f.

RECORD TOKEN ... P. Eddery 1
RHODOMANTADE ... G. Baxter 2
ROZEL BUY ... L. Pisani 3
BERKELEY SQUARE B. Rouse 4
Winner trained by P. Walwyn.
SP: 6—1, 10—1, 10—1, 2—1
fav. Berkeley Square.
14 ran.
Won by 1½ lengths: 1-length.
Total Win 68p. Places 26p. 45p.
45p.

1.50—White Rose Stakes

3-y-o G and F, 11m.

TIERRA FUEGO ... W. Carson 1
RAGOTINA ... G. Baxter 2
LOST CHORD ... P. Eddery 3
Winner trained by C. Brittain.
SP: 10—1, 33—1, 11—10 fav.
9 ran.
Won by head: same.
Total Win £1.05. Places 26p.
60p. 15p. Dual forecast £22.12.

2.20—Crocker Butelet Stakes

(Handicap), 5f.

OVERTOWN ... J. Mercer 1
RAFFIA SET ... E. Hide 2
FARIDINA ... W. Carson 3
Winner trained by R. Turner.
SP: 10—1, 7—1, 6—1, 7—2
fav. Strick.
9 ran.
Won by neck: 1½ lengths.
Total Win £1.07. Places 26p.
27p. 26p. Dual forecast £2.65.

2.50—Paradise Stakes, 2m.

MARCO RICCI ... L. Pisani 1

MAJOR GREEN B. Taylor 2

MAY HILL ... P. Eddery 3

Winner trained by B. Hills.
SP: 7—1, 9—4 fav., 7—2.
9 ran.
Won by neck: head.
Total Win 62p. Places 17p. 15p.
14p. Dual forecast £1.54.

3.20—Chobham App Stakes

(Handicap), 11m.

COMET KOHOUTER ... M. Stitt 1

SQUIRES VINE ... S. Jarvis 2

KILBEGGIE ... W. Wharton 3

Winner trained by G. Harwood.
SP: 4—1, 9—1, 20—1, 5—2
fav. Franc Flinders.
15 ran.
Won by ¾ length: head.
Total Win 75p. Places 37p. 60p.
£1.28.
Total daily double win £39.05.
tickets 38, pool £2,084.50.

1.15—Charles Elsey

Memorial Challenge

Trophy (Handicap), 11m.

HIGH SEASON ... R. Marshall 1

POT LUCK ... F. Morby 2

BEVERLEY BOY ... E. Apter 3

Winner trained by W. Marshall.
SP: 11—1, 2—1 R. fav., 2—1
R. fav.
6 ran.
Won by neck: 6 lengths.
Total Win £1.04. Places 37p.
21p. Forecast £2.51.

1.45—Dalton Holme Stakes,

1m.

DUBOFF ... E. Johnson 1

GREY SAIL ... S. Freeman 2

DONRAE ... E. Apter 3

Winner trained by B. Hills.
SP: 8—11 fav., 13—2, 9—2.
7 ran.
Total Win 17p. Places 11p. 21p.
Dual forecast 36p.
Won by 2½ lengths: 2.

2.15—Anlaby (M) Stakes

(3-y-o), 2m.

QUORTIS ... R. Marshall 1

HAUNTING MUSIC ... B. Raymond 2

CARRIBEG PRINCE J. Higgins 3

Winner trained by W. Marshall.
SP: 5—2, 10—11 fav., 9—1.
6 ran.
Won by 8 lengths: same.
Total Win 40p. Places 15p. 10½p.
Forecast 64p.

2.45—Swanland Stakes

(Handicap), 5f.

HABERDASHER ... P. Cook 1

SILVER TINKLE ... M. Birch 2

BILLY LIAR ... M. L. Thomas 3

Winner trained by G. Peter.
Hoblyn.
SP: 4—1 fav., 10—1, 5—1.
12 ran.
Won by 1½ lengths: ¾ length.
Total Win 75p. Places 21p. 40p.
26p.
Daily double win £14.75. tickets 25, pool £453.
Daily treble win £6.90. tickets 42, pool £355.75.

MARKET RASEN

12.30—Trusthorpe (S)

Hurdle, 2m.

JUST AMY ... B. R. Davies 1

SUPER PRINCE ... P. Millar 2

PASKO ... K. McCauley 3

Winner trained by S. Norton.
SP: 6—4 fav., 8—1, 5—2.
8 ran.

1.30—Skegness Jolly

Fisherman Juvenile

Hurdle (4-y-o), 2m.

DOONSIDER ... M. Lewry 1

ROMPING TO WORK ... R. Evans 2

THIRLESTANE ... R. Lee 3

Winner trained by K. Whitehead.
SP: 7—2, 4—6 fav., 6—1.
6 ran.
Won by 8 lengths: 2½.
Only 3 finished.
Total Win 65p. Places 19p. 12p.
Forecast £1.12.

2.0—Novices Hunters'

Chase, 3m.

ESOTERIC ... Mr. J. Sharp 1

SIDNEY ... Mr. C. Saunders 2

ROYAL WUNIT Mr. J. Walker 3

Winner trained by Miss S. Harris.
SP: 7—4, 11—10 fav., 33—1.
7 ran.
Total Win 34p. Places 16p. 19p.
Dual forecast 43p.
Won by 3 lengths: 30.

2.30—Humbly Grove

Distance Handicap

Hurdle, 25m.

SELDOM DAUNTED ... B. R. Davies 1

LOYAL SCOT ... Mr. J. Wright 2

ALYSTAR ... K. McCauley 3

Winner trained by J. Edwards.
SP: 15—8 fav., 6—1, 7—1.
11 ran. Non-runner: Ektoria.
Won by 6 lengths: length.
Total Win 25p. Places 18p. 22p.
22p.

3.0—Kesteven Novices'

Chase, 2m.

ORGONE ... Mr. J. Wright 1

CERTAINLY JOHN J. Suthers 2

Winner trained by R. Wright.
SP: 9—2, 16—1, 6—1, 5—4
fav. Horner.
8 ran.
Won by length: 1-length.
Total Win 65p. Places 18p. 36p.
20p. Dual forecast £5.07.
Total double £8.75. tickets 27.
pool £348.
Total treble win £7.70. tickets 29, pool £274.75.

WALWYN'S 'TOPPER'

PETER WALWYN continued a highly-successful start to the Flat season by topping the £20,000 mark in prize-money when Record Token drew clear in the last furlong to beat last year's winner, Rhodomantade, in the Top Rank Club Victoria Cup at ASCOT this afternoon.

Despite a 7lb. penalty for scoring at Kempton on Easter, Berkeley Square was backed down to 2-1 favourite to repeat the feat. His prospects looked good when he led approaching halfway, but Pat Eddery had Record Token in a challenging position on the outside.

Record Token then quickened in fine style and, in the lead with a furling left, beat Rhodomantade by 1½ lengths. That horse now has a date at the Royal meeting in the Queen Anne Stakes.

Total daily treble win £110.30, tickets 17, pool £2,639.50.
Jackpot win £2,424.20, tickets 5, paid on first 4 legs.

BEVERLEY

12.15—Ferry App (S) Stakes (Handicap), 11m.

DRUMADOLL ... M. Whigham 1

AFRICA STAR ... H. Newton 2

BEECHWOOD LAD D. Nicholls 3

Winner trained by P. Whigham.
SP: 10—1, 10—1, 13—2, 9—4
fav. Barleycroft Star.
14 ran. Non-runner: Sendora.
Won by 2½ lengths: same.
Total Win £1.04. Places 24p.
21p. 23p.

12.45—Tickton Juvenile

Stakes (2-y-o), 5f.

WILLIE DOBSON ... P. Cook 1

LISCANNOR LASS ... E. Apter 2

ABERCLAIR ... B. Raymond 3

Winner trained by G. Peter.
Hoblyn.
SP: 5—1, 14—1, 5—1, 7—2
fav. Gold Pearl.
10 ran. Firby withdrawn (not under orders).
Won by 3 lengths: length.
Total Win 56p. Places 16p. 58p.
24p.

1.15—Charles Elsey

Memorial Challenge

Trophy (Handicap), 11m.

HIGH SEASON ... R. Marshall 1

POT LUCK ... F. Morby 2

BEVERLEY BOY ... E. Apter 3

Winner trained by W. Marshall.
SP: 11—1, 2—1 R. fav., 2—1
R. fav.
6 ran.
Won by neck: 6 lengths.
Total Win £1.04. Places 37p.
21p. Forecast £2.51.



KEVIN KEEGAN, Liverpool and England striker, pictured with his trophy after being voted "Footballer of the Year" by the Football Writers' Association.

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Total Win 21p. Places 12p. 18p.

1.0—Holland Handicap

Chase, 3m.

DERRAVER ... K. McCauley 1

ANN ROSE ... Mr. R. Smalley 2

POLLOCK FAIR D. Sunderland 3

Winner trained by B. Richmond.
SP: 1—2 fav., 20—1, 14—1.
4 ran. 3 finished.
Won by 30 lengths: head.
Total Win 16p. Forecast 47p.
22p.

1.30—Skegness Jolly

Fisherman Juvenile

Hurdle (4-y-o), 2m.

DOONSIDER ... M. Lewry 1

ROMPING TO WORK ... R. Evans 2

THIRLESTANE ... R. Lee 3

Winner trained by K. Whitehead.
SP: 7—2, 4—6 fav., 6—1.
6 ran.
Won by 8 lengths: 2½.
Only 3 finished.
Total Win 65p. Places 19p. 12p.
Forecast £1.12.

2.0—Novices Hunters'

Chase, 3m.

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SIDNEY ... Mr. C. Saunders 2

ROYAL WUNIT Mr. J. Walker 3

Winner trained by Miss S. Harris.
SP: 7—4, 11—10 fav., 33—1.
7 ran.
Total Win 34p. Places 16p. 19p.
Dual forecast 43p.
Won by 3 lengths: 30.

2.30—Humbly Grove

Distance Handicap

Hurdle, 25m.

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LOYAL SCOT ... Mr. J. Wright 2

ALYSTAR ... K. McCauley 3

Winner trained by J. Edwards.
SP: 15—8 fav., 6—1, 7—1.
11 ran. Non-runner: Ektoria.
Won by 6 lengths: length.
Total Win 25p. Places 18p. 22p.
22p.

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Chase, 2m.

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CERTAINLY JOHN J. Suthers 2

Winner trained by R. Wright.
SP: 9—2, 16—1, 6—1, 5—4
fav. Horner.
8 ran.
Won by length: 1-length.
Total Win 65p. Places 18p. 36p.
20p. Dual forecast £5.07.
Total double £8.75. tickets 27.
pool £348.
Total treble win £7.70. tickets 29, pool £274.75.

OLD ABSENT

ENGLAND seam bowler Chris Old will again be absent from Yorkshire's team against Surrey at Bramford on Monday's Benson & Hedges Cup, because of a knee injury.

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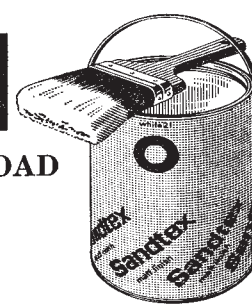
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Page 10 SPORTS ECHO — Saturday, May 1, 1976

Respectability in final flourish

By CHRIS MARDELL

A POSITION of respectability has been Alton Town's modest aim ever since the turning point in a disappointing season, which saw their Athenian League title hopes swallowed up in a tidal wave of injury and unavailability problems.

And they have achieved their target with a final flourish of three successive victories which leaves them in seventh place just a few points behind the Division 1 pacemakers, who still have a few games to play.

League cup defeats have mirrored Alton's difficulties. They conceded 11 goals at the hands of Southern League neighbours Basingstoke in the FA Cup and Trophy competitions and another six against Farnborough in the Hampshire Senior Cup.

Manager Paul Harms finally decided that his first season at the Anstey Park helm would also be his last after yet another cup defeat, this time the Athenian League Cup.

HARMONY

But through it all Harms maintained a spirit of togetherness among the Alton team. He set the harmony theme by bringing Waterloo players Mickey Gee, Len Phillips, Barry Dyer, Alistair MacDonald and Keith Ward en bloc to Anstey Park.

They were later joined by other familiar names from the Portsmouth scene, Gosport's John Hayes and Havant's Les MacDonald, Dave Selway and Paul Skew.

Ironically, the togetherness that saw Alton through thick and thin this season could now present problems. Harms successfully fostered comradeship among his players and encouraged them to give of their best under the Alton Town banner.

But the danger, now that Harms has resigned, is that they will leave Anstey Park just as they arrived — together.

Rideout looks forward

Lymington have managed to retain their Hampshire League, Division 3, place, but it was a close thing, and now manager Dave Rideout looks forward to starting from scratch, for the club were struggling long before he took control last November.

Application has been made for the Reserves to return to the Bournemouth League, and, if they obtain a reasonably high grade, the club may introduce a third team with a predominance of young players in the New Forest League.

The manager is also putting an emphasis on training, with the stipulation: no training, no football. "It costs a lot of money to run a football team now, and the day has gone when a player just turns up on a Saturday afternoon," he says.

There will also be a need for keen new committee men, especially if a third team becomes a reality.

NALGO NEED FIXTURES

Southampton Nalgo Cricket Club need Saturday fixtures on May 15 and 29, June 26, July 17 and 21 and August 28. Pitches are available and interested teams should contact Mike Pringle on Southampton 67014.



The Eastleigh Ensigns first-team squad (left to right) — back row: C. Loosemore, K. Lewis, G. Brixton, J. Higgins (capt.), J. Hopkins, G. Clarke, T. Drew, S. Truckle, M. Harrison, D. Wilkins, R. Drew (manager); front row: S. Calder, B. Noyce, J. Martin, Deany Drew (mascot), K. Peacock.



PETERSFIELD DYNAMOS, champions of the Meon Valley League for the second year running — (left to right) back row: Dave Turnbull, Geoffrey Matthews, John Spiers, Kevin Hawkins (capt.), Fraser Graham, Dave Burnett, Eddie Bentley; front row: Mick Glue, Alan Bristow, Alan Knight (vice-capt.), Tommy Pike, Mick Phipps.

Miller Trophy final hinges on two strikers

THE CURTAIN falls on the Southampton Sunday League season tomorrow with two more intriguing cup finals at BTC sports ground in Stoneham Lane, Southampton.

Followed in the afternoon by the final of the D. R. Ryder Trophy for teams in Junior Divisions 4-6 of the afternoon section.

For Star, the Jean Miller final is a chance to regain the cup they won two seasons ago. Six of their previous winners are in the squad of 13 who take on St John's Bitter.

Both had difficult passages in the latter stages of the competition, with Barleycorn having two tough encounters with Crown and Thistle before meeting holders and favourites Golden Common in the semi-final, while Star needed three matches to dispose of Rylife Phoenix in their semi-final.

Success is now new to Barleycorn either. They easily won the Division 2 title last season as well as winning the Hampshire Sunday Junior B Cup.

The match is likely to hinge on which side's goalkeeper misses the most chances — Barleycorn's Andy Shaw or Star's Ray Hedd, but perhaps the deciding factor will be the experience of midfield player Charlie Terrell and the speed of Pete Ely, which could tilt the trophy Barleycorn's way.

The D. R. Ryder Trophy features holders Wildern Sky Blues and their neighbours and rivals from Redden End, St. John's.

Wildern include nine of last year's successful side in their squad and have reached the final of impressive style scoring 29 goals in the process.

Their youngsters will find it hard going against the experience of St John's, though. The latter ran away with the Division 3 title this year and have themselves netted 28 times on the way to the final.

The final of the St. John's side formerly played for Sky Blues senior team, means players will not be unknown to each other and this local derby could well develop into a tense struggle.

Teams: Wildern Sky Blues — (from) L. Ashbolt, D. Chase, Hindmarsh, D. Baiter, A. Wisney P. Watts, R. Davis, J. Warrick, B. B. Winney, M. Messon, G. Roberts, G. Hall, H. E. St. Johns (from) — T. Coote, A. Docherty, F. Hopkins, A. Hawkins, G. New, R. Ack.

Courage's reflect

Courages were left to reflect on the ups and downs of their third season of Hampshire League football after losing 5-0 at home to promotion-chasing Ringwood in their last game.

"We're going to finish about sixth and that's not bad for our first year in Division 3," said manager Tom McNally. "These blokes don't get paid. They play because they want to and they have to be keen enough to chip in 50p a week to keep the club going."

Charrett impresses

Muttards have had a season of near misses, with both their Hampshire League and Southampton League sides narrowly missing out on promotion in their Sunday morning team finishing runners-up.

Manager Malcolm Charrett has made an impressive start in his first season as a Hampshire League manager, and his coaching ability and driving personality must make him a man to watch in coming seasons.

Tadburn Boys beat Eagles

SAINTS goalkeeper Ian Turner handed out the trophies and medals after a cup final at Romsey Town's ground.

More than 200 people saw the final of the Eastleigh and District Minor League Cup for under-10s, in which Tadburn Boys, from Romsey, beat Eastleigh Eagles 4-1.

Guests included Saints coach Jim Clunie, who said he was struck by the enthusiasm of the players and thought the match was interesting and enjoyable.

Referee John Mole, who has been taking charge of boys' games for seven years, said: "These are the best two teams I have seen at this age."

Tadburn made all the running with an early goal and others, either side of half-time. But the Eagles, who had beaten the Romsey team three times in four matches this season, came back strongly to keep the result in doubt.

Scorers — Tadburn: Mark Savage, 21; Paul Dietrich and Derek Granger; Eagles: Andrew Hobden and Nigel Grice.

Hill born on 'turf'

GORDON HILL, the Manchester United winger who has done so much to help his club to next week's FA Cup final, can make what is probably a unique claim for a footballer — he was born on a race-course!

Hill was born in a house at Kempton Park which has been demolished for an extension of the course.

He has a keen interest in vintage cars, and is always on the lookout for old models when he is on his football travels.

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"OOSTY", JACKLIN TRAIL AGAIN

A QUARTET of US golfers, Mark Hayes, Wally Armstrong, Forrest Fezler and Bill Rogers, led the way into the second round of the Houston open in Texas today after hitting sparkling five-under-par 67s.

Britain's Peter Oosterhuis matched par 72 on the 6,997-yard Woodlands Country Club course, with Tony Jacklin one stroke further back.

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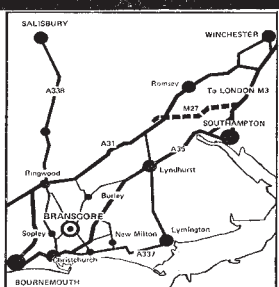
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THE new Southampton Sunday League champions Road-Sea, who took the Premier Division title at the first attempt. Pictured, back row, left to right: Peter Price (manager), Ian Calder, Alan Judd, Paul Grant, Mick O'Neill, Bobby Williams, Lec Junker, Roy Alford (secretary); front row: Steve Budden, Mick Farmer, Dave Williams, Graham Hounsell, Martin Parker, Cliff Roberts.

Minehead must wait

The splendid form of goalkeeper Ray Goddard for Millwall in the season's closing weeks suggests Minehead, the Southern League club, will have to wait for further payments in connection with the transfer of Nicky Johns, their goalkeeper, to the South London club in February. It was agreed a further fee would be paid to the Somerset club when Johns had made a specified number of League appearances.

THE victorious Saints A team who brought the Hampshire Senior Cup to The Dell for the first time since 1950 when they beat Southern League Waterlooville 2-0 on Thursday.

Pictured, back row, left to right: John McGrath (coach), Steve Middleton, Trevor Hebbell, John Sharpe, Steve Williams (captain), Paul Arnold, Phillipson-Masters, Kevin Hart, Bill Stroud (trainer). Front row: Graham Baker, Tim Cook, Austin Hayes, Kevin Dawtry and Steve Neville.

Barclays Bank pipped

Reversing the positions of the teams in Southampton Junior League Division 10 the previous season, Shirley Torchbearers pipped Barclays Bank on goal average in Division 7 this season. Gainsford gave little away in Division 8 and were so able to overcome a strong challenge from Harland's Reserves.

Millbrook Boys' Brigade were to get the better of neighbours Millbrook and Maybush Reserves in both the Division 9 and Junior Cup B competition. Peckers were a good third in their first season. New teams Wareham and Loddish Sports filled first and third position in Division 10. Tucked in between were Barrie Reserves.

Post Office, packed full of local talent, expectedly won the Southampton F.A. Wednesday League. At the time of writing Woolston Wednesday, the Travers Cup winners, and HM Customs and Southampton Colleges were involved in a tight battle for second place.

BUSBY RESTLESS

Martyn Busby, the OPR mid-fielder, could be on the move this summer. He realises his best chance of a regular place in League football is away from Shepherd's Bush.

Skipper goes as Mac plans for next term

By BOB BRUNSKELL

ALDERSHOT, relegated to the Fourth Division this week after a three-season stay in the Third, have released skipper Len Walker on a free transfer.

Another of Aldershot's longest serving players Tony Godfrey was given a free transfer as manager Tommy McAnearney announced his retained list for next season.

Mr. McAnearney believes he has the nucleus of a side that can come bouncing straight back to the Third Division but he is set to strengthen one or two positions.

He has already made a new signing for next season—the versatile West Ham youngster Alan Wooler, who will probably slot into the left side of Aldershot's midfield.

Wooler nearly came to Aldershot on loan a couple of months ago but the Hampshires retained his services because of injuries. Now they have given him a free transfer and the North Hampshire side have signed him permanently.

Mr. McAnearney also hopes to tempt a former First Division player out of retirement and he is set to sign a 24-year-old amateur as his second choice goalkeeper.

The decision to release Walker came hard to Mr. McAnearney. The Darlington born defender has given Aldershot sterling service over the past 11 years and last season was given a testimonial match against Chelsea.

Since Mr. McAnearney took over the managerial strings at the Recreation Ground,

cent years he has made only a handful of appearances staying in the shadows of Glen Johnson.

DISAPPOINTED

Ironically, it was Mr. McAnearney's old club Sheffield Wednesday who sent Aldershot down, coming up with the goods against Southend on Thursday when they needed only to draw to climb to safety.

"Naturally, we're all bitterly disappointed, especially after being in what appeared a comfortable mid-table position only a few weeks ago," said Mr. McAnearney.

"Every result is important but our recent home defeats by Gillingham then Swindon proved to be our undoing. If we'd beaten either of those two we'd have been safe now. But having said that we've got the blend of youth and experience to see us straight back next season."

Sholing jug Hare

Now both Sholing and Brockenhurst are facing next season under different managers. Brockenhurst have yet to make their decision public, but a man who already has a close association with them could be appointed.

Sholing have appointed the former Saints' full-back Tommy Hare, who has been with Southern League Waterlooville for the past three years.

Hare, who takes over following the resignation of Ron Sevier, moved from Saints to Luton Town and then returned to Hampshire to work, playing for Netley Central and Basingstoke before joining Waterlooville.



LEN WALKER

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RICHARD TAUNTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Saints FOUNDATION

Page 12 SPORTS ECHO — Saturday, May 1, 1978

SOUTHAMPTON FA LEADING GOAL-SCORERS

Premier Division: Paine (Testwood) 25, Jennings (Y.M.C.A.) 20, Death (Testwood) 19, Edwards (Y.M.C.A.) 18, Hagger (Old Tauntonians) 15, Jones (N.D.L.B.) 15, Ellaway (Y.M.C.A.) 14, Ely (West End) 14.

Senior Division 1: Emery (Mottisfont) 21, Handley (Bishopstoke) 18, Hodges (Mottisfont) 15, Bush (Ordnance Survey) 14, Armstrong (Follands) 14, Whittle (Milbrook and Maybush) 14, Flood (Newlands) 13, Stanistreet (Newlands) 13.

Division 2: Parsons (Hythe and Didden) 29, Murphy (Hythe and Didden) 28, Jackson (Old Edwardians) 25, Sturges (Testwood) 20, Bradbury (Old Edwardians) 15, Forsythe (Vospers-Thornycroft) 15, Spencer (Bishop's Waltham) 15.

Junior Division: Churcher (Swanmore) 19, Court (Eastleigh Spartans) 17, Jones (B.T.C.) 17, Manchester (Sarisbury Green) 17, Ryves (Eastleigh Spartans) 17, Burney (Old Tauntonians) 16, Moore (Swanmore) 15, Trotter (Cadnam United) 15.

Division 2: McLeish (Shirley) 20, Smith (West End) 21, Strong (University 2), Clarke (Moorhill) 20, Wickes (Ventura) 16, Noko (Moorhill) 14, Richards (North End) 14.

End Of 14: Virgin (St. George's Old) 14.

Division 3: Whittington (Shore United) 10, Goodridge (Brendon) 10, Daniels (Hythe and Didden) 10, Fletcher (Newlands) 15, Cousins (Hedge End) 15.

Division 4: Wiemora (Chandler's Ford B.C.) 21, Humphries (Esso) 20, Williams (Eastleigh Town) 19, Jacobowski (Chandler's Ford B.C.) 17, Jones (Quadrant) 17, West (Testwood) 16, Karcutik (K.M.P.S.) 15, Winter (Eastleigh Town) 15.

Division 5: Milson (Brainfield) 25, Morris (Bardic) 24, Price (Globe) 23, Hamby (Bardic) 22, Green (Cygnet) 20, Edes (Osborne) 18, Edwards (Univ. Hospitals) 17, Fox (Cygnet) 15.

Division 6: Shrimpton (Knightswood Foresters) 45, Lewis (Knightswood Foresters) 26, Barton (Chandler's Ford) 25, Davis (Brace Banks) 24, Farrell (Bitterne Sports) 24, Phillips (Ashby) 24, Ferry (Ashby) 17.

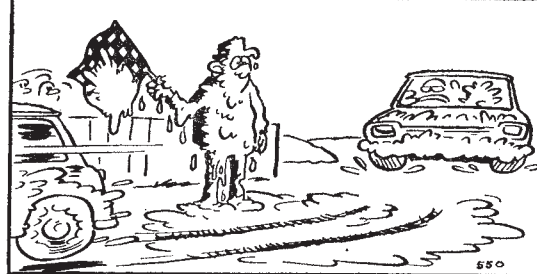
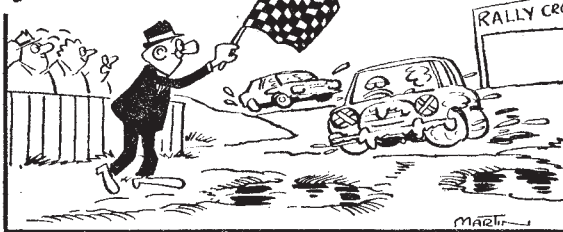
Division 7: Funnmore (Shirley Torchbearers) 31, Watson (Unimarine) 29, Gurry (Dart Maritime) 19, Goddard (Moorhill United) 18, Jordan (Netley Ath.) 15, Matthews (Barclays Bank) 15, Philston (Ventura) 15.

Division 8: Perryman (Gainsford) 33, Green (Gainsford) 26, Blows (Queens Keep) 21, Williams (Gainsford) 18, Smithers (Bishop's Waltham) 15.

Division 9: Knapel (Milbrook B.B.) 37, Carter (Peters Sports) 18, Howard (Milbrook and Maybush) 18, Ireland (Brendon) 17, Caplan (Milbrook B.B.) 13.

Division 10: Whyte (Lordsash) 26, Davis (Warsash) 22, Wallis (Lordsash) 16, Camb (Lordsash) 15, Edwards (Warsash) 12, Hickey (Thornhill Baptists) 12.

STIMEY



New Street, champions of the North Hants Senior League (left to right standing: Arthur Turner (manager); Fred Stockwell, Mick Evans, Dennis Staff, Steve Chorley, Dave Stockwell, Ken Turner, Mick Stockwell, Ken Willey (trainer), Bob Bryden (chairman). Front row: Tony Robb, Graham Burchell, Robert Dunne, Keith Twycross, Dave Tucker, John Clark.



Town conceded silly points

Farnham Town look set to finish fourth in the Hampshire League, but with more consistency could easily have taken the championship again.

Having beaten Cowes 3-0 in their final League match, Farnham were left to ponder on what might have been had they not conceded silly points to the "lesser" sides such as Overton United, Waterlooville, Fleet, East Cowes Vics and Winchester City.

Brockenhurst, the champions, finished five points clear

of Farnham, who hardly helped their own cause by producing two abject displays against the eventual winners. By their own high standards, Farnham have had a disappointing season, but they have done well in cup competitions.

They are, through to the finals of the South-Western Counties Pratten Cup, the Russell-Cotes Cup — for the fourth successive year — and the Gosport W.M. Hospitals Cup; coupled with which they enjoyed success in the FA

Trophy before losing to Staines Town in a replay. They also struck an FA Cup surprise by beating Bath City 1-0.

Alan Wilson, who resigned as manager in January "through pressure of business" will be back at the reins from the start of next season; although it is unfortunate that Reserve team boss Dave Ings is unable to see his way clear to carrying on.

Ings, still a useful player, has done a fine job with the

Reserves this season and, through his forward-thinking, several useful youngsters have made their mark in Division 2 soccer.

The Reserves, who look certain to finish well up the Division 2 table, beat Totton Athletic 2-1 last weekend, with Martin Brightman and Sean O'Neill on target. Mick Swain (2) and Mick O'Neill scored for the first team in the 3-0 win at Cowes.

WE are the champions! BROCKENHURST entered the Hampshire League during the 1935/36 season, and now, for the first time, have won the championship.

Pictured above (left to right), back row: Cyril Otter (chairman), Jack Hull (secretary), Ted Penfold (treasurer), Selby Dando (assistant-manager), Jim Lawford (manager), Alf Grace, Brian McQuoid, Ian Ferrett, Trevor Clark, Harry Lee (committee).

Front row: John Lee (committee), Jim Needham, Mike Aickling, Dave Dear, Bill Paramore, Bob Buck, Malcolm Renyard and Tim Richardson. Mascot: Michael Browning.

ISLAND LEAGUE

Geddes buys new boots in his 40s

JOE GEDDES, now in his 40s, went out and bought himself a pair of brand new boots the other day. Said Joe, a one-club man who joined Shanklin as a junior 25 seasons ago "I reckon I might be called in for a game or two yet."

They think a lot of Geddes at the County Ground, where he still turns out when needed and also turns his skilled craftsman's hand to any job that needs doing.

When they were dishing out the club trophies at the annual dinner, the biggest roar of applause was for Geddes when he went up to the top table to collect an inscribed silver tankard in recognition of more than a quarter of a century of valiant and loyal service.

Said chairman Derek Wheeler, who played alongside him 20 seasons ago: "Joe Geddes is the sort of player who is the backbone of the game."

It's been another season of triumph for Barton Sports, where manager Jack Horne. Sports clinched their third league title in a row when Peter Urmidge headed an injury-time goal against East Cowes.

Since Horne, who had a run with Hiles as a youngster, took over eight seasons ago, Barton in addition to climbing out of Division 2 have won the Challenge Cup three times in five finals and were this week due to have a crack at winning the Memorial Cup for the third time.

But Horne is no limelight-hogger. Nor does he give all the credit to the players. "The real success here at Barton is due to the tremendous amount of work done behind the scenes from people like our first-aid man, Freddie Dear, and secretary Alan Osborne, chairman Dave Ledcott and treasurer Vic Street . . . the lot could go on and on."

Jubilation at Fairway Park, where Sandown Reserves return to Division 1 soccer after years of frustrating exile in Division 2. They are up company with Yarmouth, who won the championship on goal average.

But manager Brian Arnold says a thumbs up for White's Sports, who took a tumble at the final hurdle when the prize seemed within their grasp.

Said Arnold: "White's are the best footballing side in the division and would have been in the right company in Division 1."

He added: "I know exactly how they must be feeling. I had the same experience four times when I was with Brading Youth. Twice we were pipped at the post, once on goal average."

Of their promotion fight, Mr. Arnold said: "It was a big blow when we lost Perry Farrow, our goalkeeper, who had to have an ear operation, but Wilf White, a back-four player, took over and turned in some fantastic performances."

Another teenager who has been lucky during the tourist rush.

"We must somehow try and overcome this and also get in half a dozen games or so against good opposition before the league programme gets under way, otherwise it's going to be the same old story of struggling along and being out of touch for those vital opening matches."

Injuries have plagued the Westeners this season. "But we've been bringing players in and they have thrown up some real talent like winger Joey Dent, who is just 16."

Another to shine at Camp Road this season is goalkeeper Mark Brechley. "Mark has had some great games," said Mr. Marsh, himself a former goalkeeper and now a back-four player.

Jackie Buckett who returned to Oakfield some seasons ago after memorable years with Seaview when they were riding on the band-wagon of success has been appointed manager in succession to Peter Brennan, who announced last week that he was hoping for a short rest from soccer.

Peter served us really well and was a real help for helping us climb out of the

Second Division," said secretary Dennis Simpson.

Mr. Buckett is a sure of the solid support of players and committees. "Jackie is very popular and a worthy successor to Peter Brennan," said Mr. Simpson.

SOTON SCHOOLS FINAL TABLES

FIFTH YEAR EAST

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Weston Park	9	6	1	2	13
Bitterne Park	9	6	1	2	13
Hushdown	9	5	2	2	11
Moorhill	9	5	1	3	11
Widern	9	4	1	3	9
Green Lane	9	4	0	5	8
Merry Oak	9	2	1	6	5
St. Mary's	9	2	0	7	4
Woolston	9	0	0	9	0

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hardley	9	7	1	1	13
Rodbridge	9	7	1	1	13
Hounsdown	9	7	0	2	14
Bolton	9	6	2	1	14
Nesdown	9	4	1	4	9
Shirley Warren	9	4	1	4	9
Hampson Park	8	2	2	4	6
Applmore	8	2	1	5	5
Milbrook	8	1	1	6	3
Priestlands	8	0	0	8	0

Hardley beat Rodbridge 3-1 in a play-off.
Duncan and Preveitt Cup final: Weston Park 3, Hardley 0.

FOURTH YEAR DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Weston Park	12	9	2	1	19
Rodbridge	12	9	2	1	19
Priestlands	12	6	1	5	13
Milbrook	12	4	2	6	10
Merry Oak	12	4	2	6	10
Hounsdown	12	1	1	10	3

DIVISION 2 EAST

	P	W	D	L	Pts
St. Mary's	12	9	1	0	24
Hushdown	12	7	1	4	15
Widern	12	6	2	4	14
Woolston	12	5	0	7	15
Moorhill	12	4	0	8	8
Bitterne Park	12	2	0	10	4
Hamble	12	2	1	9	5

DIVISION 2 WEST

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Testwood	12	9	2	1	20
Applmore	12	8	3	1	19
Hardley	12	8	2	2	18
Shirley Warren	12	5	1	6	17
Green Lane	12	3	3	6	9
Deverry	12	2	1	9	5
St. George	12	1	1	10	3

Hampson Park withdrew during the season.
Division 2 play-off: St. Mary's 2, Testwood 1 (after extra time).

THIRD YEAR DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Milbrook	12	10	0	0	20
Moorhill	12	9	1	2	19
Testwood	12	7	2	3	15
Widern	12	7	1	4	14
Testwood	12	3	3	6	9
Weston Park	12	3	3	6	9
Hounsdown	12	2	0	10	4

DIVISION 2 EAST

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Merry Oak	12	9	1	2	19
Bitterne Park	12	8	1	3	17
Hushdown	12	8	0	4	16
St. Mary's	12	7	1	4	15
Widern	12	6	2	4	14
Hampson Park	12	4	2	6	10
Woolston	12	3	1	8	7

DIVISION 2 WEST

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Shirley Warren	14	11	5	0	26
Green Lane	14	10	0	4	20
Bolton	13	8	2	3	18
Applmore	14	3	2	9	11
Deverry	14	4	3	7	11
Nesdown	14	3	3	8	9
St. George	14	3	3	8	9
Hardley	14	2	2	10	6

Division 2 play-off: Shirley Warren 5, Merry Oak 0.

SECOND YEAR EAST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hushdown	12	10	1	1	21
Moorhill	12	9	2	1	20
Widern	12	7	2	3	16
Merry Oak	12	6	1	5	11
Weston Park	12	4	2	6	10
Hamble	12	4	1	7	9
Woolston	12	0	0	12	0

CENTRAL DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Pts
St. George	12	9	0	3	20
Bitterne Park	12	7	3	2	18
Shirley Warren	12	9	1	2	19
Bolton	12	5	3	4	13
Hounsdown	12	3	1	8	7
Green Lane	13	3	2	8	7
Hampson Park	12	1	1	10	3

WEST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Rodbridge	13	11	1	0	23
Hounsdown	12	9	1	2	19
Milbrook	12	8	2	2	18
Penfold	12	9	1	2	19
Applmore	12	3	1	8	7
Testwood	12	3	1	8	7
Nesdown	12	1	1	10	3

Rodbridge won the triangular play-off.

Other results: Fourth year six-a-sides—Moorhill beat Shirley Warren in final; Bass Charrington took the final; Farnham beat Hants in final; Norman Roberts—Hushdown 1-0; Hounsdown beat Bitterne Park.

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'Lady B' reaping just rewards

"LADY B" is getting her money back. And that is a very good thing indeed for the British racing and breeding industry. The toll, thin grey-haired widow of the newspaper tycoon, Lord Beaverbrook, was formerly married to a leading financier. She is a very rich lady and a big spender.

When she came into her sport, she told Lord Wigg: "I have devoted my life to my husband's interests — the first part to his finance and the second to the news. Now I am going to enjoy the remainder of my life doing what I want to do — racing."

With this end Lady Beaverbrook has spent a fortune on bloodstock at the annual sales, pushing prices up to astronomical levels, particularly when involved in high-power duels with the likes of Ravi Tikoo.

She takes a view about certain top stallions, notably the Derby winners, Cragg and Sea Bird II, and the mighty Italian horse, Ribot, all of whom are now dead. "These Sea Birds do something to me," she said once. "I just can't resist them!"

Recently, she has turned her attention to the Derby and Arc de Triomphe winner, Mill Reef, who holds court at the National Stud at the remarkable fee of £35,000 for a live foal.

The first Mill Reef offered last year, all stamped with a remarkable resemblance to their sire — the hall-mark of a good stallion — fetched between 31,000 and 75,000 guineas.

Then, at Newmarket's Houghton Sales in mid-October, the lovely chestnut colt by Mill Reef out of Laila seemed certain to join the ever-increasing drain of our best bloodstock to foreign countries until Lady Beaverbrook stepped in to do battle with crusading Ravi Tikoo. A duel developed between the Indian shipping magnate and the British Bloodstock Agency.

The handsome chestnut, who moved so well, was expected to make six figures, but even Tattersalls, the auctioneers, were staggered when the bidding soared to 202,000 guineas.

The foreigners had been beaten off Ravi Tikoo, but Lady Beaverbrook ignored his trainer's advice to "drop out at 80,000" and continued fearlessly, but the hammer finally fell in favour of the BBA, shattering all records for the public sale of a thoroughbred in Europe.

At the time, Colonel Hastings would not disclose the name of the buyer, although it was generally assumed that Lady B. was involved, partly

cularly since the youngster was sent to one of her trainers, Dick Hern. Last week Robin told me: "The colt is called Million. He belongs to the Daypring Company Ltd. and will run in the name of Lady Beaverbrook, who is, I believe, the chief shareholder." He emphasised that the name should not be confused with another Mill Reef — a two-year-old, Millionaire, trained by Peter Walwyn.

For some time it appeared that Lady B., like many another big spender, was pouring her money down the drain. But in the last two years she has started to reap her well-deserved rewards.

Her Bastino won first the St. Leger and then last year's Coronation Cup. Lady B. has also reaped a huge sum and stands at stud in England.

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with TIM FITZGEORGE-PARKER

men. Her dedicated racing manager is 25 times champion Sir Gordon Richards, the greatest jockey of them all. Her trainers are Dick Hern and Ian Balding.

Now her 1976 classic hopes, Relko, a 58,000-guinea son of Derby winner Belko, and Ribbohy, a 30,000-guinea foal and one of the last of Ribot's progeny, have won high-class races and are already worth a great deal more than their owner paid for them.

As Dick Hern continues on the crest of the wave, I believe that he will be second to none in the future. These two follow up with more victories in the best company. Then, despite her huge outlay, Lady B. will start to show a real profit, proving that, if you speculate wisely, you can still accumulate in the bloodstock world.

As I suggested, Mill Reef's three-year-old full-sister Memory Lane proved at Epsom that she is a force to be reckoned with. Ian Balding will win more races with her. She is now worth a fortune.

Unfortunately, from his restricted first season's covering, Mill Reef has only nine two-year-olds running for him in England. Of these, four, including the one by Ian Balding, are now worth a fortune.

So, perhaps, this year his old rival Bradfield Gerard may have the edge, but from next season onwards Mill Reef's whose fertility is magnificent and who has had about 43 mares a year to cover, will surely establish his superiority again. From all that I have seen of his products, my money is on Lady B. Reef all the way.

Barry Hills' two-year-olds are now in as good form those trained by Richard Hannan. Crown Bowler will win again, just as surely as Royal Diver and Priors Walk.

John Dunlop's No Convention finished very fast at Sandown, where a particularly noted Cadeagan Lane, improving so fast that he is sure to be placed soon despite the attentions of the handicapper. Norfolk Air is very useful.

Over the last two to three years, Hampshire's fielding has been the best in the country. It has been very athletic and the catching, apart from the odd lapse last season, first-class. And, on top of that, Bob Stephenson behind the stumps, has been a tower of strength.

"Steve" is probably as consistent as any wicketkeeper in the country and I would rank him only behind Alan Knott and Bob Taylor.

Miss Gordon, particularly in the one-day competitions in which he can be quite dynamic. Even so, I don't see any problems with our batting.

We have always been an attractive batting side and one which scores its runs at a fast rate. This is important as it gives us more time and, therefore, a better chance to bowl the opposition out. And this is one of the aspects we have

scored off over the last few years. As far as the county championship is concerned, we have had a hard draw inasmuch that in the first few games, these are always difficult as chaps are finding their feet and it is always preferable to play at home.

It is vital that we should get off to a good start as this would give us a lot of confidence. A couple of good early victories would give us just the boost we need to mount another strong challenge for the county championship.

At this early stage, and September is a long way off — it is difficult to forecast which county will win the championship. As I see it, any one of eight counties, including Hampshire, could win it.

It will be a question, really, of the run in and who gets the best, particularly during the closing stages of the campaign.

If someone were to twist my arm at this very early stage in the proceedings, I would plump for Leicestershire to regain the title. They have an adequate seam bowling and very good spin attack.

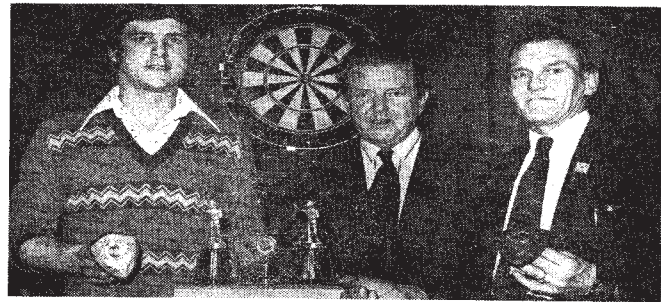
Grace Road was a spin bowler's paradise last year and, obviously, Leicestershire are going to win a few games there.

Our new group in the Benson and Hedges Cup is the strongest by far and it is going to be harder for us to qualify for the quarter-final stages than it has been in the past. But in beating Lancashire at Old Trafford, where they are always hard to topple, we have got away to a great start.

But the remaining matches in our group are not going to be easy. I would rank Don Barlow in their ranks, will be a little more on the ball than previously while Warwickshire are always a powerful side.

On paper, our easiest match should be against Glamorgan but they will have home advantage, the game being staged at Swansea next Saturday. We didn't make the best of starts to our defence of the

WINNING FIREMEN



T. Osgood (left) and A. Knight (right) from Alton the Hampshire Fire Brigade

date pairs champions being presented with their trophies by Mr. Arthur Tanner, Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

They beat D. Corbett and M. Driver from Fareham.

The individual title went to Gus Grover from Andover, who defeated Corbett.

The team event was won by Aldershot.

TOITON Ladies FC drew 2-2 with Copesham Ladies (Stroud) in the final of the Pyxilis Morgan Memorial Cup at Watlington. The replay will be on May 28.

Sue Lopez and Lynn Davage scored for Toiton. Toiton have gained promotion from Division 2 of the Home Counties Women's Football League. Copesham are a Division 1 side.

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A statistician's delight

THE 1976 Hampshire Hand-book, now available from the County Ground, carries its usual comprehensive coverage of the previous season, together with complete score-cards for every match.

It is also a statistician's dream in that it gives full career records of all the current Hampshire players, the best partnerships for all wickets, the highest and lowest scores made for and against the county. In fact, it gives all the statistical information anyone would want to know.

But the handbook is far from being just a mass of statistics, interesting though they are. It also contains a number of articles, the main contributors being John Arlott, who reviews the 1975 season, county secretary Desmond Eagar and Olive Ford, wife of club chairman Geoffrey Ford.

As Mr. Ford tells of how her love of cricket began when she was a schoolgirl in Yorkshire and expresses her delight at being at Southampton last summer to see Hampshire beat Yorkshire in the final of the Fenner Trophy.

Mr. Eagar, in addition to writing a piece entitled "Then and Now," in which he talks of the jubilation which existed in the Hampshire camp when the county finished third in the championship of 1955, has also contributed a moving tribute to Geoff Keith, the county's coach, who died on Boxing Day.

In these inflationary times, it is nice to be able to record that the price of the handbook has remained at 50p for the third year running, though those sending for the book should send a further 16p to cover postage.

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RICHARD TAUNTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Saints FOUNDATION

Page 16 SPORTS ECHO — Saturday, May 1, 1976

IT'S ALL SAINTS DAY

WEMBLEY was a blaze of red on this, the greatest day in the English football calendar. There seemed to be so many more United fans in the crowd. Many of the Saints supporters chose to stay with the club's usual colours of red and white, but blue and yellow favours sprouted proudly, especially at the tunnel end.

The tension was gripping, the atmosphere electric and expectant as the fans waited to greet their teams. It was good to see excellent behaviour from the fans as they sang "Abide With Me." In the past, there have been several instances of the hymn being drowned by club songs but today the necessary respect was shown.

The teams emerged some seven minutes before the kick-off, with Lawrie McMenemy and Tommy Docherty at their head. Behind the Saints manager there came Peter Rodrigues, the captain, for whom this Cup Final repre-

Teams:

SAINTS	MAN. UTD.
Ian Turner	1 Alex Stepney
Peter Rodrigues	2 Alex Forsyth
David Peach	3 Stewart Houston
Nick Holmes	4 Gerry Daly
Mel Blyth	5 Brian Greenhoff
Jim Steele	6 Martin Buchan
Paul Gilchrist	7 Steve Coppell
Mick Channon	8 Sammy McIlroy
Peter Osgood	9 Stuart Pearson
Jim McCalliog	10 Lou Macari
Bobby Stokes	11 Gordon Hill
Hugh Fisher	12 David McCreery

Referee: Clive Thomas (Trenorchy).

Linesmen: A. W. Gray (Gorleston-on-Sea), B. Marchant (Hereford).

By Brian Hayward
Sports Editor

sents a fairy story. Only a year ago, given a free transfer by Sheffield Wednesday, he was thinking about going out of football.

Saints wore red track-suits and United had white tops. The massed bands of the Guards played the national anthem as Prince Philip went down to the pitch to be presented to the teams. First, he was introduced to United by Martin Buchan and, after stopping for a word with Tommy Docherty, he moved across to meet Peter Rodrigues.

Shared a joke

with McMenemy

Rodrigues then escorted the Prince along the line of Saints players. He stopped to talk with manager Lawrie McMenemy and seemed to share a joke with him.

United wore their normal red shirts and white shorts. Saints sported their new strip of yellow shirts with a blue stripe along the sleeves. There was a yellow stripe on their blue shorts.

Saints, who won the toss, defended the east end, where most of their supporters were. And Saints quickly made an impressive attack. The move was set up by Jim Steele, who quickly found Mike Channon; and he tried to reach Bobby Stokes, moving eagerly into space, but Martin Buchan cut out the danger quickly.

Wingers stamp

selves on game

Saints were soon back in the United half and Buchan was forced to make a back pass to Alex Stepney as Stokes went in; then Brian Greenhoff found Stewart Houston with a long cross-ball. Hill sped past Peter Rodrigues and again had a shot on target. Turner saved and Sammy McIlroy was penalised for off-side.

But United were looking dangerous in these early stages and they soon fashioned another penetrating move which was checked by an off-side decision against Steve Coppell.

Coppell and Hill, two exciting wingers, quickly stamped themselves on the game. Coppell began a move which saw Turner having to save a cross-shot from Forsyth; but, as Saints countered, Forsyth got back to check Nick Holmes illegally.

The Saints defence again caught United off-side as Coppell made a probing run from the halfway line. But Steele then found Paul Gilchrist to begin a promising Saints attack.

Buchan intercepted a pass and very nearly knocked the ball back to Stepney, which could have been disastrous for United. Stokes was moving in anticipating the back-

pass, but Buchan saw him just in time.

Forsyth concedes first corner

It was then Southampton's turn to be caught in an off-side trap. The victim was Stokes, who raced after Peter Osgood's pass.

The game was open and flowing, and Forsyth, the United right-back who thrives on attack, came through to drive a 20-yard shot past Turner's right-hand post; then Gilchrist hit a long pass from the halfway line for Stokes to chase. Forsyth went with him and swept the ball into touch.

The first corner of the game was conceded by United when Forsyth, challenged by Stokes, put the ball behind. Macari came back to head clear from Peach's backkick.

There was a scare for Saints when Pearson raced onto Daly's through-pass, and beat the off-side trap, but Turner tried to push it over him.

A 20-yard shot from Gilchrist forced Stepney into his first save and then a superb pass by Channon found Peach in space out on the left. Peach found Channon with his centre and the Saints' forward knocked the ball forward, but it was channelled back to Stepney.

Gilchrist, Holmes and Stokes then fashioned a sweeping Saints attack. Peach cut in from the left with Channon and Osgood waiting at the far post, but the fullback aimed for goal and the ball cannoned off Forsyth and went behind for a corner. Peach

took it and Osgood won it in the air, but his header was too high.

Holmes sorts out hectic scramble

Saints, although very much the underdogs in the eyes of many, were certainly not being overawed by the occasion. But they underwent a scare after Osgood, back in the Saints half working hard, lost possession to McIlroy. A dangerous scramble developed on the edge of the box, but Holmes made a decisive tackle and Osgood coolly pushed the ball back to Turner's waiting hands.

Twice long throw-ins by Hill put Saints under pressure, but they dealt with this confidently and a long pass by Gilchrist sent Channon racing down the right wing, but Buchan moved across at top speed and whipped the ball into touch. Forsyth, the United left wing, tried to find Channon along the left wing. But where Channon went, he did Buchan, and he swept the ball into touch.

Steele moved by Pearson and Coppell posed problems for Peach and Steele; and McIlroy moved easily in from the right-wing, but he was brought down by Holmes, and he made a half of a right-footed shot—his weaker foot.

And, with Rodrigues flat out in the halfway line after a collision, United put on some pressure; but Saints repelled it and when the ball was knocked into touch the referee called on trainer Jim Glunne to treat the Saints' captain.

He appeared to have taken a blow on the head and was clearly groggy as he walked back towards the Saints penalty area. He certainly seemed unsure of his bearing.

United poured men forward and a real scramble began near the Saints six-yard box. Steele, on the ground, hooked the ball wide and it was turned behind for a corner which saw Saints escape. Coppell's corner was touched on at the near post by Pearson and Saints were in trouble.

McIlroy went up at the far post for his header and then had the agony of watching the ball thud against the angle of post and bar.

This was beginning a really testing period for Saints, but they launched a swift counter-attack with Channon holding the ball well and shielding it from Buchan, before feeding McCalliog. He hit the ball to the edge of the United penalty area as Rodrigues raced in, but Houston got there first.

Coppell produced another searching test for the Saints defence. He rounded Peach and drove the ball low into the box but Blyth, who was having a fine game, cut out the pass and cleared. Immediately Saints set up a brilliant counter-attack.

Channon and Osgood worked a one-two before Channon took the ball across the box and flicked it to Rodrigues. It was a chance, but the Saints' captain shot hopelessly wide.

Back came Saints. Stokes carried the ball a long way into the United half before switching the direction of the attack with a pass to Channon on the right-wing. Osgood looked for the cross but Channon, in a brilliant fashion and took the ball past two men before unleashing a fierce left-foot shot that seemed only inches away from the target.

Soon after that, in the 67th minute, United brought on substitute David McCreery, and it was Hill, the semi-final hero, who was taken off.

The game remained so finely balanced, with Saints a splendid advertisement for the Second Division. McCalliog began a move which saw Holmes knock the ball inside to



Saints goalkeeper Ian Turner is flattened by United's Sammy McIlroy (right) after pushing away a shot from Peter Rodrigues (left) to clear.

other fine move. Osgood rolled the ball inside to Stokes and Stokes touched it to Holmes, but he made a half of a right-footed shot—his weaker foot.

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Pearson put pressure on Saints, but McCalliog raced across to turn the ball behind for a corner and, from Coppell's flagkick, Houston sent a header goalwards, left Turner held the ball without problem.

United were worried when McCalliog hit another precise through-pass. Channon couldn't reach it and Houston headed the ball forward, but Stokes followed up and cracked a first time effort just too high.

A beautifully timed pass by Stokes to McCalliog on the halfway line was to prelude to another sweeping move. Holmes joined it and then Osgood was brought into action but, after fencing for an opening, he was crowded out.

United hit back with two corners in rapid succession but, from the second, a shot by Daly was blocked by Gilchrist and then Blyth got it clear and Stokes went into action to begin to build again. Gilchrist continued the move, linked with Stokes, and then found Osgood with his cross; but the centre-forward's header was checked down by Forsyth, who cleared.

It all erupted in the 83rd minute when Saints swept into the lead with a brilliant goal scored by the great little compactor STOKES. McCalliog fashioned the opening with a brilliant pass and Stokes took aim with his left foot and shot with deadly accuracy.

Stepney hurried himself to his left but the shot was perfect and the ball went into goal just inside the post. Stokes was swamped by ecstatic teammates. The Southampton fans roared with admiration.

When the game restarted, Saints immediately had to undergo a terrible moment after a break by Daly. The ball seemed to catch the defender's foot and he had to come a long way off his line to clear up the danger.

It was a moment before the young goalkeeper hugged the ball to his chest and said "It's a great feeling."

Could Saints hold their lead and make the dreams come true? Stokes was magnificent as Coppell broke the little striker raced back and robbed his opponent. Immediately Saints attacked again; Holmes centred from the right; Osgood nodded it forward, but Forsyth was

able to knock it back to Stepney. United came back again in the back. Forsyth knocked the ball forward to try and find Pearson, but he couldn't, and there was Holmes on the spot to boot the ball out of danger.

The clock seemed to tick so slowly now. McCalliog came back to help out the defence as Greenhoff tried to knock the ball through to McCreery, but the youngster was over-anxious. Then the whistle went: SAINTS HAD WON THE CUP.

Pearson collapsed; Turner rolled with him; Channon and Gilchrist embraced, but was agony for United, but ecstasy for Southampton. The unfashionable had done it and it was good to see Tommy Docherty congratulate some of the Saints players. Then there was Lawrie McMenemy, too.

MATCH VERDICT

WHAT a marvellous day for Saints! The club they said had no chance proved the world wrong.

They went to Wembley for the first time. It was only the third time in the club's history that they had reached the Cup Final and you've got to go back to 1862 for the last time.

They said Saints had an easy path to the final. Who cares about that? Manchester United are perhaps the greatest club in England. They have thrilled the world of football this year.

But they met their match today in the Southampton team that has believed in its ability to win from very early in the competition.

United had their moment of bad luck when Sammy McIlroy hit the angle of post and bar, but Saints played with patience and perseverance. Jim McCalliog pulled the strings in midfield and there was Stokes to finish it all off.

Attendance: 106,000. Receipts: £240,000.

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Manchester United skipper Martin Buchan introduces members of his team to Prince Philip at Wembley.

Buchan again did well to cut the ball out as McCalliog attempted to find Channon, but Saints soon fashioned an-

attack with Channon holding the ball well and shielding it from Buchan, before feeding McCalliog. He hit the ball to the edge of the United penalty area as Rodrigues raced in, but Houston got there first.

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FOOTBALL FANS Jailed
Two Manchester United soccer fans were jailed for six months by a London magistrate today and others were fined after various incidents during the night.

Lawrie McMenemy, the Southampton manager, said afterwards: "The longer we wait on the better for us. During the match I told substitute Frankie Fisher 'We're not going to lose this.' In the Cup this season and it showed today how professional, well organised and determined we have been. "The only time that I was worried was when we conceded a corner or a free kick because it is ages since a club has scored a 'good' goal against us."

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or Sunday
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Winners

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Saints' FA Cup triumph

Staff and most of players celebrate 40th anniversary



The team from Jagex Games Studio.

Pictures: Chris Moorhouse

A SPECTACULAR gala dinner was held at St Mary's last night to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Saints' FA Cup final success.

Manager Lawrie McMenemy, his backroom staff and most of the team that defeated Manchester United 1-0 at Wembley on May 1, 1976 were the guests of honour in the Mike Channon Suite, where more than £100,000 was raised for the players and the event's charity, Wessex Heartbeat.

With the exception of captain Peter Rodrigues and the late, great Bobby Stokes and Peter Osgood, the FA Cup heroes were all present, including: Ian Turner, Mel Blyth, Jim Steele, David Peach, Paul Gilchrist, Nick Holmes, Jim McCalliog, Mick Channon, Hughie Fisher, Pat Earles, Paul Bennett and Gerry O'Brien.

Other big Saints names present included director of football Les Reed and former striker James Beattie.

Hampshire Cricket chairman Rod Bransgrove and director of cricket Giles White were among several guests from The Ageas Bowl.

Top-class entertainment included acts from freestyle rapper Chris

Turner, comedian Josh Daniels and West End 2 U, a group of five former *Les Misérables* cast members who produced a stunning finale with a breathtaking medley of hits from the hit musical.

The night was compered by Mike Osman and the auction raised a six-figure sum.

A painting commemorating the 1976 team was completed live by Ben Mosley, before being signed by all the FA Cup heroes and sold for £16,000.

But the biggest buy of the night was an evening's entertainment from former Spandau Ballet star Tony Hadley, West End 2 U and Josh Daniels, which went for £27,000.

The 40th anniversary celebrations conclude on Sunday, when the players will travel on the open-top bus used for the original celebratory tour of the city, from Southampton Guildhall to St Mary's, before being welcomed on to the pitch at half-time during Saints' match against Manchester City.

They will then move on to the Mayflower Theatre for a special anniversary show compered by legendary sports broadcasters Peter Brackley and Garry Richardson.



Hughie Fisher, Ian Turner and Mick Channon.



Joel Worrall, Claire Brooker and Daily Echo editor, Ian Murray.



Dan and Laura Veal, and Alex and Daniel Peach.



Lisa Wrate, John Munro, Allison and Nigel Whitehorn, Natalie Munro, Chris Wrate and Katie Wrate.



Debbie McCalliog, Mayor of Southampton, Cllr Linda Norris, Maureen O'Brien and Gill Smith.

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toasted at gala dinner



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Stuart and Jo Payne, and Helen and Mick McFarland.



Members of the 1976 team, back row, from left, Pat Earles, Nick Holmes, David Peach, Ian Turner, Lawrie McMenemy, Mel Blyth, Paul Gilchrist and Hughie Fisher. Front row, Gerry O'Brien, Jim McCalliog, Paul Bennett and Jim Steele.



Naomi Gates, Chris and Fiona Mitchell, and Evelyn Snow.



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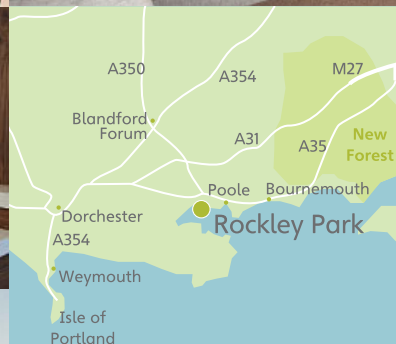
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Howe plays down Toffees speculation

EDDIE Howe insists he remains fully committed to Bournemouth amid reports suggesting he could be the next Everton manager.

Roberto Martinez's position at Goodison Park appears precarious following a season of underachievement, highlighted by supporter dissatisfaction in recent weeks.

Fans have held banners calling for the Spaniard to go and backed Leighton Baines after the left-back was forced to apologise for saying Everton lacked 'chemistry'.

Asked if he would be interested in succeeding Martinez should he leave Everton, Howe told reporters: "I don't think I have to reaffirm my commitment here every week, which seems to be a regular pattern. I love it here and I'm committed to the job."

"You've got to win games to stay in work and I'm fully committed to this job here."

"When you're a manager yourself you



AFC Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe

have the full support and understanding of other managers.

"It's a very difficult profession and you're judged constantly every week on your results, on a lot of aspects of your job."

"It's very tough at this level."

Meanwhile, Howe is keen to protect Harry Arter's long-term future as the midfielder continues to battle a persistent Achilles problem.

The Republic of Ireland international suffered the injury during the home win against south-coast rivals Southampton at the beginning of March and has played just 45 minutes of football since.

"It's been difficult for him because he's the type of character that wants to play, as they all do, every week," said Howe.

"He missed pre-season, the first part and the tail-end of the season and in between he did really well."

"We just hope that he's fit beyond this season and of course this summer is a big one for him."

"We will wait and see what happens."

Of Bournemouth's recent injury problems, Howe added: "Adam Smith has seen a specialist and we're waiting for some definitive feedback on him. Max (Gradel) is improving slightly, he took a knock but we hope he'll be ok."

"Again we'll take our time on him but we're hopeful he'll get fit."

Adams raring to go

JIMMY Adams is relishing the prospect of embarking on a cricket season without the distractions which dogged the opening months of his 2015 campaign.

Following his decision to relinquish the Hampshire captaincy in July last year, Adams rediscovered his form with the bat, playing a vital role as the Ageas Bowl side retained their County Championship Division One status, against all conceivable odds, *writes Paul McNamara*.

Adams, who succeeded Dominic Cork as skipper in 2012 and had his long service to the club rewarded with a benefit last year, is looking forward to his first match of the season against Middlesex tomorrow after recovering from the ankle injury that ruled him out of the draws against Warwickshire and Yorkshire.

"I'm certainly looking forward to this year, without some of the stuff that was bubbling along in the background last year," said Adams, who made 117 for the 2nd XI against Somerset this week.

"The captaincy was a real privilege, but there are also times when you can find yourself too immersed in things. I don't know how this season will go, but I am very much looking forward to it."

"It's been frustrating to miss out so far, but I can't complain too much. I've never had to miss a game through an injury before, so I've been fairly lucky."

Despite guiding his team to Lord's glory in 2012, when Hampshire beat Warwickshire in the final of the now defunct 40-over competition, and masterminding promotion into the top-flight in 2014, Adams admits that he never viewed captaincy as a long-term proposition.

He said: "I think it got to the point where it was starting to weigh on me a bit more than it had in previous years. I don't think I ever thought I was going to do it for a long, long time."

"You have to be very strong, a certain character to be able to do it for a long period. Someone like Mark Nicholas (Hampshire captain for a decade from 1985) is a prime example of that."

"I did always have it in my head that after a few years it would be nice to finish my career playing without the stripes. I'm looking forward now to this year and beyond, hopefully."

After replacing Adams in the post, James Vince oversaw Hampshire's remarkable finish to last season, winning three and losing only one of his six championship matches at the helm.

Their renaissance saw Hampshire pip Sussex to safety by two points. Adams, meanwhile, was finding his touch in the middle. The opener followed up a century at Taunton, against Somerset, by delivering 70 priceless runs from his bat at Trent Bridge, as his team



Jimmy Adams in typically aggressive mode in limited overs cricket



A flashback to 2012 – left to right Sean Ervine, Jimmy Adams, Simon Katich and James Tomlinson

chased down 200 on the season's final day at Nottinghamshire to complete the great escape.

And the left-hander intends to contribute on all fronts this year.

Asked if Hampshire would be prioritising one particular format of the game, Adams pointed to the

attitude of another of the county's former captains, Shane Warne, who targeted victory in every single match, regardless of its wider context.

"With the history we've had in the T20 (Hampshire have contested finals day in each of the last six sea-

sons, winning the tournament in 2010 and 2012), some people might see that as the competition to earmark. But I sense that you start the season and think you can win every game."

"I remember Shane Warne saying exactly that in his early days at the

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without captaincy



Jimmy Adams and his son, Jonah, pictured in September last year



Jimmy Adams in textbook mode for Hampshire

club. He would say we are going to try and win every game. If you do that you'll win every trophy. The likelihood of that happening, of course, is slim. But you don't go into any game thinking 'no, this one's not for us'.

"But I do think, in four-day cricket, last year's topsy-turvy cam-

paign highlighted the importance of starting well. So that's our priority for the first part of the year."

Australian legend Warne, who finished his Test career with 708 wickets, returned to Hampshire as skipper in 2002, having already spent the 2000 season there.

Adams says the former leg-spin-

ner's fearless outlook is something he still draws on today.

"I was very lucky," explained former England Lions batsman Adams. "Shane came along at a time in my career when having someone of his character and his presence here really helped me.

"When he looked you in the eye

and said 'come on mate, I need you', it gave you real belief. To feel that someone like him believed in me was a huge fillip.

"I think the guys that were fortunate enough to play with him can always draw on things from that time. There can be game times when you feel like you're a long way behind the eight-ball. Warne had this incredible belief that a game could be won from any situation.

"I'd like to think a good number of us have carried that through. When we're in a tricky situation we still believe we can turn it around. That's the resilience we showed last year, and we'll need to replicate it this year."

Adams insists that, in Vince, Hampshire have the perfect character to spearhead a side which represents a fascinating mix of exciting youngsters and veteran campaigners, the category into which the 35-year-old now falls, 14 years after his first-class debut.

"It's tough, because you don't want to add to the weight of expectation on him," said Adams, when asked about both Vince's leadership credentials and international prospects.

"But I do believe that his ability as a player is suited to international cricket. I think he has that time at the crease – and technically he's strong enough.

"As a captain, the beauty of Vincey is that every time he takes to the field he's a real competitive sod. He wants to win and he'll do almost anything to achieve that.

"He's got a good cricket brain and hopefully a few of us older stagers can help him if he needs it – but I don't really think he does.

"I think he possesses the self-assurance that the decisions he's making are the right ones. It would be very good if he's around for us, but I have a feeling that we might not see as much of him as we'd like."

Hampshire fans can, however, expect to see plenty of the club's promising batch of emerging talent in action this year.

Adams believes 19-year-old Mason Crane, who burst onto the scene with his wicket-taking leg-spin last year, will continue to flourish this time round.

And the ex-captain is confident that the trio of Crane's fellow 19-year-old Joe Weatherley, Tom Alsop (20) and 21-year-old Lewis McManus – all of whom fired with the bat throughout pre-season – share the capacity to seize any first-team opportunity to come their way.

He said: "Lewis, Tom and Joe have been brilliant in pre-season. They've scored runs almost every time they've had an opportunity. I think all of them are ready.

"You can never be 100 per cent sure because experience is a great asset as well, but I certainly don't think any of us are worried about them having to play.

Turn to page 45

Lallana in Villarreal goals vow

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp has told his players Villarreal are "there for the taking" at Anfield next week despite holding a 1-0 first leg Europa League semi-final lead.

An added-time Adrian Lopez goal gave the Spanish club a slender advantage to bring to Merseyside but the Reds boss is confident that can be turned around – backed by the power of a home crowd – and ex-Saints star Adam Lallana agrees.

Klopp may have tried to manage expectations of a repeat of the drama of a fortnight ago – when another former Saint, Dejan Lovren, struck an injury-time winner as the Reds produced a miraculous comeback against Borussia Dortmund – in his post-match press conference but Lallana is stirred by still-fresh memories of what turned out to be a famous Anfield night.

"Trust me, I cannot wait for next week," said the England international. "I keep thinking about Dortmund and what happened then. The fans have got a massive role to play.

"We are going to make it a rocking atmosphere and we will get the two goals that we need.

"The manager has told us that they are there for the taking.

"He told us that we have got the fans



Adam Lallana is challenged by Cucco Martina

and then he said, 'We will make it another magical night next week'."

Although Klopp suggested his side's inexperience may have cost them a goalless draw in Spain after they were caught out by an injury-time counter-attack Lallana believes the players have learned plenty from a number of big games in the last 12 months.

They reached last season's FA Cup semi-final and went one better than their 2015 run to the last four of the Capital One Cup by reaching Wembley this February, only losing to Manchester City on penalties.

Lallana is sure that will stand them in good stead when it the time comes to deliver next Thursday.

"It was a massive sucker punch, so hard to take. It almost a brilliant away performance," he added. "But listen, these things happen. We still have massive confidence about taking them back to Anfield. It will be a completely different game.

"The manager told us, 'Do not worry. Be disappointed for five minutes but no longer – wait until we get them back home'.

"It would have been easy to get deflated. It's only natural that we are disappointed after conceding in injury time but we are over it.

"We have got to back ourselves and we will."

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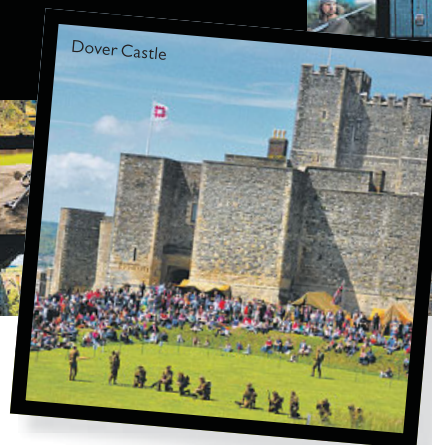
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SUNDAY LEAGUE AND SPORTS ROUND-UP



Crowds line the streets as Bradley Wiggins cycles out at the start of the Tour of Yorkshire

Winsor win to lift junior cup

WINSOR United claimed the Southampton Divisional FA Junior 'B' cup with a 1-0 victory over Lyndhurst JFC.

The teams were drawing 0-0 at half-time, only for Winsor to score through Alex Sellwood in the second half to win the cup, *writes Marlon Ayling-Allen.*

Winsor United also won the Hampshire FA Junior 'B' final, sponsored by Trophies4U.

Again, another 1-0 victory saw them win the final over Nursling, when the two teams were level 0-0 at half time. The goal was scored by Alex Clark.

In the A.J Miller Trophy final, AFC West End were victorious over Boyatt Wood Wanderers.

West End won a penalty and Craig Harding converted it to put them 1-0 up.

Boyatt Wood equalised when Anthony Gregory was played in, and he delicately lifted the ball over the goalkeeper to score his first goal of the season.

The second half saw Boyatt dominate possession, but West End were playing on the counter-attack and Craig Harding got his second when he headed in from a corner.

In the Premier Division, Hamble Roll Call beat Bush Hill 8-2.

It was Pete Munday (Senior's) last game for Bush Hill and he went out with a goal, but sadly for them it wasn't enough to see them overcome a rampant Hamble Roll Call side who scored eight times.

A.F.C Portswode and A.F.C Velmore met in the Junior Division 1, where



Sunday league action

Portswode were victorious 4-2, despite being behind at half time.

The match saw six different scorers and three Portswode players go to casualty due to cuts to their heads.

A.F.C Riverside (Sunday) beat Lokomotiv Eastleigh 2-0, thanks to a goal either side of half time. Mike Collins and Rob Crook scored. Lokomotiv

Eastleigh are second in the table.

There were two games in the Junior Division 3, as A.F.C Waterside and Dursley beat Bitterne Ducks and Portside respectively.

They were both high scoring games, with A.F.C Waterside defeating Bitterne Ducks 6-5.

Nathan Gray got four goals for Wa-

terside, who went on to win, despite being down 4-1 at half time.

Michael Thomas also got four goals for Bitterne Ducks. A.F.C Waterside are top of the table, whilst Bitterne Ducks are third.

Dursley won 5-4 away to Portside. Nathan Baker got a hat-trick for Portside, but it wasn't enough.

Fawley battle to stay top

FAWLEY R.B.L. Reserves drew 2-2 with Lyndhurst J.F.C. in the Junior Division 4 to remain top of the table.

Hedge End City were 5-0 winners over Burridge A.F.C, thanks to Ryan Seiver (2), John Hall, Dan Brooks and Matt Dipper scoring the goals. Burridge only have one point to their name thus far.

Hunters Inn were 3-2 winners over Sholing Monks, with five different goal scorers in the game. Hunters Inn climb to second.

J.S.C. were 6-1 winners over Abbotswood in the Junior Division 5, however Abbotswood had to play 40 minutes of the game with 10 men due to an injury.

Abbotswood are bottom of the table with six points and a goal difference of -49.

In Junior Division 6, Bishops Waltham Dynamos scored six goals as they beat F.C Woolston 6-2. Woolston remain bottom.

Testwood Tornadoes lost 3-0 to Chamberlayne Athletic Reserves. Richard Brown, Justyn Penfold and Ben Colborne scored the goals. Both sides remain midtable.

● **Arsene Wenger** has called for a sense of perspective as Arsenal's supporters prepare to protest.

Black Scarf Movement, RedAction and the Arsenal Supporters Trust want those present at the Emirates Stadium to raise placards reading: "Time for change. Arsenal is stale, fresh approach needed."

Wenger believes certain critics of the team are trying to "manipulate" supporters to suit their own agenda, but shares the general frustration among Gunners supporters at Arsenal's latest failure to win the league.

However, the 66-year-old thinks the club's overall "evolution" since their move from Highbury has wrongly been overlooked.

"We have to put things a little bit into perspective and see how the club's evolution has gone over the years," Wenger said.

"It was not always easy. The quality of the work we've done at the club has got us into a strong position where expectations are very high, but we are frustrated when we don't get what we want."

"When you build a stadium, we had five to seven difficult financial years where we had to pay back - we had (to qualify) for the Champions League three years out of five and have an average (gate) of 54,000 people (to finance the new stadium). We didn't know we would be capable of that."

"We had to sell our best players every year to survive, but we didn't do three years out of five in the Champions League. We did five out of five. But during that time, it was very difficult."

New sponsorship deal will help club in its development



SWFC manager Fran Alonso with some of his players in their new kit sponsored by Stratland Estates

SOUTHAMPTON Women's Football Club (SWFC) are celebrating after their winning season has been capped with a lucrative new sponsorship deal from Romsey based property developer Stratland Estates.

The new deal includes a new kit and training gear and will benefit both players and supporters with the provision of much needed investment in the club's equipment, players and facilities.

Established in 1971, SWFC has a long and proud history as both the oldest and most successful women's team in Southampton, having won the FA Women's Cup eight times between 1971 and 1982.

However, more recently it has been a challenge to keep the club going, as

SWFC player and assistant 1st team coach, Lauren Houck, explains: "In recent seasons we have been fighting to remain in the Southern Region League as we have struggled to muster 11 players each week. However, since the arrival of our new manager Fran Alonso, who is also the first team technical support coach at Southampton FC, the Club has completely transformed.

"We have enjoyed a great run of form, which has been rewarded with promotion to SRWFL Premier Division. Having won the league title we still have a League Cup final to be played in May. We are now a completely renovated club with a great set up. We now have two teams and a Girls Development Centre with further plans to introduce a development squad as well as an U-16's team to provide a clear pathway for our young girls and help the future of the

club and women's football in the community."

First team manager Fran Alonso, said: "Since I joined we have undertaken a complete restructuring of the club, we implemented new values and our own playing style and philosophy. We have recruited many volunteers that make our team something very special. As a result the team is having a fantastic season and we are all very proud of what we have achieved so far.

"Women's football continues to grow in popularity and we are seeing this with the support we are getting each week. The success that we have had this season is obviously attracting wider support from the community, which is gratefully received and is much needed to sustain the future of the club.

"We are delighted to have Stratland Estates onboard as our major spon-

sor. These are very exciting times at the club and we look forward to enjoying a long-standing relationship with them as we continue to build momentum with this squad."

Land and development director at Stratland Estates, Andy Wright, said: "We are always looking at ways in which to engage with the local community and connecting through sport is a great way to do this.

"SWFC has made great strides this year under the new management structure and is looking to push on this year to achieve bigger and better things. We hope that with the support of Stratland they can continue this great run of results."

● For further information on how to get involved with Southampton Women's FC call 07517 485795 email Sotonwfc@gmail.com or visit www.southamptonwfc.co.uk

Adams aims for big year

From page 41

"If Tom is selected in the first game, which I think he will be, then fingers crossed he can have a bit of luck and he can have a really, really good year for us."

With the increase in players knocking at the first-team door, Adams is eyeing a return to the sort of prolific form that saw him score more than 1,200 runs during his side's Division Two winning season two years ago.

"I'll continue for as long as I'm able to help the squad move forward – and if I pick up my form," he said.

"Last year was a disappointment in that sense. Hopefully I can still contribute in all forms. I missed a bit of T20 last year and I'd like to force my way back into that reckoning.

"I certainly don't want to stand in the way of guys coming through. The competition for places is good. We've got some very young players. If they're ready to go, and performing better than me, then that will be something I'll have to consider down the line. But, fingers crossed, I've still got something to offer."

Turning his thoughts back to the here and now, Adams is determined that his side avoid their early season malaise of 2015, instead using the momentum of last year's sprint for the line to propel them on to a flying start this term.

Speaking at the county's pre-season press day, he said: "You want to start well. When you do start winning games it breeds belief. It's infectious. People talk about momentum and it's an unknown quantity.

"But it does have an effect. We managed to get on a roll at the end of last year, whereas we stalled in the blocks at the start of the season.

"If we can get an early win, or put in a strong early performance, that will really help us. But I do think we're more resilient following the experience of last year.

"So if things don't work out quite as we hope, then I believe we have the character to turn things around quicker than we did last year – but hopefully it doesn't come to that."



Jimmy Adams

SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Barclays Premier League

ArsenalL	NorwichL
HT L-L	
Everton2	AFC Bournemouth1
Cleverley 7	Pugh 9
Baines 64	
HT 1-1	Att 38,345
Newcastle1	Crystal P0
Townsend 58	
HT 0-0	Att 52,107
Stoke1	Sunderland1
Arnautovic 50	Defoe 90 pen
HT 0-0	Att 27,867
Watford3	A. Villa2
Abdi 45	Clark 28
Deeney 90,90	Ayew 48
HT 1-1	Att 20,653
W.B.A.0	West Ham3
	Kouyate 34
	Noble 45,93
	Att 25,031

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt				
Leicester	35	11	6	1	32	13	11	4	2	31	16
Tottenham	35	10	6	2	34	17	9	6	2	31	13
Man City	35	12	1	5	45	19	7	6	4	21	15
Arsenal	35	10	4	3	26	11	8	6	4	32	64
West Ham	35	8	7	2	30	20	7	7	4	30	23
Man Utd	34	11	4	2	23	7	6	4	7	19	23
Liverpool	34	7	7	3	30	21	8	3	6	28	24
SAINTS	35	9	3	5	31	19	6	6	18	18	54
Stoke	36	7	4	7	20	23	6	5	7	28	48
Chelsea	34	5	7	5	29	27	7	4	6	24	19
Everton	35	5	5	8	32	30	5	9	3	23	19
Watford	35	6	5	7	18	17	6	3	8	18	25
W.B.A.	36	6	4	8	19	25	4	7	7	13	21
Bournemouth	36	5	4	9	22	33	6	4	8	21	30
Swansea	35	7	5	16	18	3	3	5	10	18	31
Crystal P	36	5	3	10	17	22	5	6	7	19	24
Newcastle	36	6	7	5	27	23	2	2	14	12	39
Sunderland	35	4	6	7	17	18	3	5	10	23	40
Norwich	34	5	5	7	22	27	3	2	12	13	32
A. Villa	36	2	4	12	14	35	1	3	14	13	37

SkyBet Championship

Bolton1	Hull0
Dobbie 65	
HT 0-0	Att 14,366
Brentford3	Fulham0
Saunders 5	
Hogan 7,40	
HT 3-0	Att 12,301
Bristol C4	Huddersfield0
Kodjia 45,67	
Bryan 64	
Tomlin 77	
HT 1-0	Att 15,791
Ipswich3	M K Dons2
McGoldrick 16	Revell 45 pen,74
Pitman 68	
Varney 90	
HT 1-1	Att 19,631
Leeds Utd1	Charlton2
Bamba 71	Gudmundsson 39
HT 0-1	Att 25,458
Nottm For1	Wolves1
Gardner 68	Mason 58
HT 0-0	Att 22,291
Reading1	Preston2
Quinn 86	Beckford 56
HT 0-0	Att 15,834
Rotherham0	Blackburn1
	Duffy 6
HT 0-1	Att 11,035
Sheff Wed3	Cardiff0
Hooper 64,90	
Pellier 75 og	
HT 0-0	Att 31,843

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt				
Middlesbrough	45	16	4	2	33	7	10	6	7	29	23
Burnley	44	14	6	2	37	14	10	9	3	31	21
Brighton	44	15	4	3	39	17	9	11	2	31	23
Hull	45	14	7	1	42	11	9	4	10	22	30
Derby City	44	12	7	3	37	15	9	7	6	28	26
Sheff Wed	45	13	8	2	42	17	6	9	7	23	26
Cardiff	45	12	8	2	32	19	5	8	10	23	31
Ipswich	45	9	8	6	28	24	8	7	7	24	27
Birmingham	45	9	5	9	27	27	7	9	6	25	21
Brentford	45	10	4	9	33	30	8	4	10	34	36
Preston	45	7	9	6	20	20	8	7	8	24	24
Leeds Utd	45	7	8	8	23	28	7	8	7	26	29
Q.P.R.	44	9	9	4	36	25	4	9	9	17	28
Wolves	45	6	10	6	24	25	7	6	10	27	32
Blackburn	45	7	8	7	26	22	5	8	10	17	23
Reading	45	8	9	6	25	20	5	4	13	26	36
Nottm For	45	7	8	8	25	26	5	8	9	16	20
Bristol C	45	7	7	9	34	34	6	6	10	20	36
Huddersfield	45	7	6	9	32	28	6	6	11	26	37
Rotherham	45	8	6	9	31	34	5	4	13	21	32
Fulham	45	7	5	10	35	36	4	10	9	30	43
Charlton	45	5	8	9	23	32	4	5	14	17	45
M K Dons	45	7	3	12	20	35	2	9	12	18	32
Bolton	45	5	11	7	24	26	0	4	18	17	54

SkyBet League One

Barnsley2	Colchester2
Fletcher 57,80	Moncur 42
HT 0-1	Lapsley 90
Blackpool0	Wigan4
	McCann 60
	Wildschut 70,72
	Grigg 65
	Att 9,226
HT 0-0	
Burton Albion2	Gillingham1
Akins 44	McDonald 49
Naylor 90	
HT 1-0	Att 5,388

Chesterfield3	Bury0
O'Shea 29 pen, Novak 45	
Gardner 71	
HT 2-0	Att 7,232
Coventry3	Sheff Utd1
Fortune 4	Sharp 58 pen
Rose 8, Lameiras 87	
HT 2-0	Att 13,177
CreweL	DoncasterL
Anley 43, Haber 57	Rowe 28
HT 0-1	Att 4,403
Millwall3	Oldham0
Webster 5,54	
Ferguson 40	
HT 2-0	Att 12,419
Rochdale2	Swindon2
Allen 45	Obika 2
Lund 67	N Thompson 45
HT 1-2	Att 2,806
Scunthorpe1	Port Vale0
Madden 61	
HT 0-0	Att 7,275
Shrewsbury3	Peterborough4
Akpa Akpro 74	Baldwin 42
Mangan 85	Angol 46,69
Grimmer 89	Taylor 90
HT 0-1	Att 6,019
Southend0	Bradford1
	Evans 12
	Att 8,571

	HOME					AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt				
Wigan	45	14	6	2	38	13	10	9	4	43	28
Burton Albion	45	13	8	2	32	16	12	1	9	25	21
Millwall	45	13	3	7	34	22	10	6	6	37	26
Walsall	44	10	6	6	28	25	12	6	4	35	23
Bradford	45	13	5	4	30	16	9	6	8	23	24
Barnsley	45	11	4	8	35	24	10	4	8	31	29
Scunthorpe	45	12	6	5	28	15	8	5	9	30	32
Gillingham	45	13	4	5	40	22	6	8	9	30	32
Coventry	45	12	6	5	41	24	6	10	24	25	66
Sheff Utd	45	11	4	7	37	27	7	8	8	27	30
Rochdale	45	12	6	5	41	25	6	10	25	35	66
Port Vale	45	12	7	3	35	20	6	4	13	21	33
Peterborough	45	8	4	10	37	36	10	2	11	40	36
Southend	45	10	5	8	30	26	6	10	26	35	59
Bury	45	9	8	5	33	27	6	4	13	20	44
Swindon	45	9	4	9	36	36	6	7	10	25	35
Oldham	45	7	5	10	25	33	5	13	5	19	23
Chesterfield	45	6	11	36	29	9	2	11	22	29	53
Shrewsbury	45	5	5	13	29	39	8	6	8	29	37
Fleetwood Tn44	8	8	6	31	20	3	7	12	18	33	48
Blackpool	45	8	5	10	22	24	4	5	13	17	34
Doncaster	44	7	6	9	27	24	4	6	12	20	37
Colchester	45	4	9	9	31	41	5	4	14	25	56
Crewe	44	3	7	12	22	39	3	6	13	21	41

SkyBet League Two

Barnet3	Yeovil4
Gash 22	Dolan 55
Akinde 52 pen,62	Smith 63, Zoko 76, Cornick 90
HT 1-0	Att 2,379
Cambridge2	Plymouth2
Williamson 84	Mell 71
Spencer 86	Carey 90
HT 0-0	Att 6,714
Carlisle0	Oxford Utd2
	Maguire 4 pen, Sercombe 74
HT 0-1	Att 6,948
Dagenham1	Crawley0
Doidge 51,53, Hemmings 80	
HT 0-0	Att 1,643
Exeter1	Morecambe1
Stockley 89 pen	Ellison 85
HT 0-0	Att 3,336
Hartlepool0	POMPEY2
	Naismith 57, Chaplin 85
HT 0-0	Att 5,046
Leyton O1	Mansfield0
Palmer 48	
HT 0-0	Att 4,257
Newport County0	Notts Cnty1
	Snijders 39
HT 0-1	Att 4,903
Northampton2	Luton0
Diamond 4	
Marquis 36	
HT 2-0	Att 7,664
Stevensage0	AFC Wimbledon0
HT 0-0	Att 4,011
Wycombe0	Acc Stanley1
	Hughes 78
HT 0-0	Att 4,041
York4	Bristol R4
McEvoy 81	Bodin 19,71
	Easter 80
	Mansell 88
	Att 4,525

		HOME					AWAY					
HT 0-1	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Northmpn	45	15	5	3	38	19	13	7	2	42	26	
Acc Stanley	45	11	8	3	43	30	13	4	6	31	18	84
Oxford Utd	45	9	7	6	34	20	14	7	2	47	21	83
Bristol R	45	14	2	6	39	20	11	5	7	36	25	82
POMPEY	45	10	7	5	37	11	8	4	37	25	78	
Plymouth	45	11	3	8	34	26	12	6	5	33	20	78
Wimbledon	45	10	4	8	29	25	10	8	5	34	25	72
Cambridge	45	10	6	7	37	28	8	7	7	29	27	67
Leyton O	45	11	4	8	33	31	7	8	7	26	30	66
Wycombe	45	9	6	8	25	24	8	7	7	20	17	64
Carlisle	45	6	11	6	32	33	11	2	9	30	28	64
Carlisle	45	10	6	7	38	35	6	10	6	24	27	63
Mansfield	45	7	9	6	34	26	10	3	10	27	27	63
Luton	45	6	6	10	23	28	12	3	8	36	32	63
Barnet	45	13	3	7	37	27	3	8	11	27	41	59
Hartlepool	45	9	3	11	27	32	6	3	13	22	35	51
Notts Cnty	45	9	4	9	30	33	5	5	13	24	45	51
Yeovil	45	6	9	7	23	26	5	6	12	20	32	48
Slewege	45	6	8	9	23	32	5	6	11	29	35	47
Crawley	45	8	5	9	21	27	5	3	15	24	38	47
Morecambe	45	7	2	13	35	46	5	7	11	33	44	45
Newport Co	45	4	8	11	21	35	6	5	11	22	28	43
Dagenham	45	3	5	15	17	37	5	5	12	28	32	44
York	45	6	7	10	33	41	1	5	16	17	45	33

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